

Re: Osteoporosis additional analysis **Comments from Royal College of Nursing**

A very comprehensive report which highlights some interesting issues. There is failure to recognise the role that the nurse specialist can play in the management of the patient. This relates particularly to the issue of adherence to treatment. Unfortunately nurses cannot predict if a patient will experience side effects, but we can prepare them with a good understanding of how to take their medication and the potential side effects. The nurse has a major part to play in this, especially with the use of helpline and rapid access to a health care practitioner if the patient is experiencing problems. This could reduce the need to see the GP, as the nurse may be able to deal with issues that do not require a GP, and usually have more time to spend with the patients.

There is little evidence in the documents about the type of information the patients are given to underpin a new prescription, and I think a standardised way of giving information and the type of information would be a useful inclusion that should be considered, to aid adherence and patient safety."

There is one serious omission in the analysis. The issue of concordance or persistence has not considered the level of appropriate information patients were given and how this was not just an information sheet but actually tailored information and guidance on why the treatment was necessary and how to manage their issues in the context of new script. There is a lot of evidence in this area and it clearly has implications for a) both concordance and persistence b) a significant issue re side effect profiles and appropriate management of medications re amount of water etc. c) The importance of specialist expertise in counselling patients prior to starting and access to expert advice once on treatment.

We feel this a large part of this work and a strong factor and therefore a significant omission in this document.