

## Health Technology Appraisal

**Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene and strontium ranelate for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women**

and

**Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate and teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women.**

As you are aware the Appraisal Committee met on Tuesday 1 November 2005 to consider the responses received from consultees and commentators on the Appraisal Consultation Documents (ACDs) for the above technologies.

After careful consideration and in response to the comments, the Committee decided that some reanalysis of the evidence may be required. In considering the Committee's request, the Institute took into account the balance between the desirability of issuing guidance to the NHS as quickly as possible, and the importance of producing credible, defensible guidance based on the best available evidence.

The Institute has agreed a specification for the additional analysis to be prepared by the Decision Support Unit. The specification for this additional analysis is enclosed for information.

The analysis will be completed during July 2006. In line with our normal procedures, we anticipate all consultees and commentators will have opportunity to comment on the outputs of this work. You should therefore expect to receive a copy of the additional analysis the week commencing the 24 July 2006 for a four-week consultation period. The Committee will then reconvene to consider the reanalysis along with consultation comments and prepare an appraisal consultation document.

I am sorry we have had to extend our standard timeline in this way. We believe that it is in the interests of patients, as the ultimate beneficiaries of our guidance, that we ensure that the Appraisal Committee has a sufficient base of evidence to inform its judgements.

If you would like to discuss this decision, please contact me, or the Project Manager for this appraisal, Emily Marschke.

Yours sincerely

Dr Carole Longson  
Director, Centre for Health Technology Evaluation

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