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**From The Registrar**  
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Dear Ms Fuller

**NICE HTA: The clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness of strontium ranelate for the prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women - Assessment Report**

The Royal College of Physicians is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the assessment report for the above appraisal. The only point we wish to make is a relatively minor one. We notice that in the discussion it is stated that Strontium increases bone formation, whereas we do not think that this has been proven at least in humans. From our reading of the papers Strontium increased alkaline phosphatase activity, but that does not equate to an increase in bone formation. The histomorphometric data show no evidence of an increase in bone formation (eg mineral apposition rate). However this does not undermine the recommendations for clinical use.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rodney Burnham  
Registrar