

18.5.15 (reviewed and updated 8.1.19)

Dear GPs and District Nurse teams

Re. DENOSUMAB – clarity of responsibilities if patient housebound

Refer to attached guidance by Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group available [here](#)

Role of GPs

- Identifying which patients require denosumab and when
- Complete all steps in “**Ten Responsibilities of clinician initiating treatment**” section
- Check patient is able to comply with “**Five Responsibilities of patient**” section
- Request blood tests from Community Phlebotomy Service/District Nursing Service (locality dependant) in a timely way
- Check blood results
- Order denosumab from Prolia, your Pharmacy or give patient a prescription
- Provide direction to administer to District Nursing team for each administration

Role of District Nurses

- Admit patient to DN caseload and complete blood test as requested by GP (This stage should be done by the Community Phlebotomy service if you have one in your locality)
- Once DTA for one-off denosumab injection received from GP, arrange visit to patient
- Be aware of “**risks**” section (as below), checking with patient and escalating any concerns to GP before administering
 - Hypocalcaemia – Adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D is essential. Ensure that patient is actually taking any prescribed supplements. Report any symptoms of hypocalcaemia, e.g. muscle spasms, twitches, or cramps; numbness or tingling in the fingers, toes, or around the mouth.
 - Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (ONJ) – Check that patient is maintaining good oral hygiene and receiving routine dental check-ups. Escalate any oral symptoms such as dental mobility, mouth ulcers, pain or swelling.
 - Cellulitis – Patients may develop cellulitis or other skin infections most commonly in the lower leg. Escalate any swollen, red area of skin that feels hot and tender, possibly with symptoms of fever.
- If safety checks OK, complete administration of denosumab as requested by GP, as per “**Dosage & Administration**” section
- Update the Primary Care Record by recording the fact of administration as a consultation (or as agreed with the patient’s practice) and inform GP practice that has been administered
- Discharge patient from DN caseload

Storage

Denosumab should be stored between 2 and 8°C. However it can safely remain out of the fridge for 28 days providing its temperature does not exceed 25°C.

Regards

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Patient to be started on/due next dose of Denosumab

