

SHARED CARE PROTOCOL: DENOSUMAB

NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE

NB: This document should be read in conjunction with the current Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC)

DRUG AND INDICATION:

Generic drug name:	Denosumab
Formulations:	60mg subcutaneous injection (Prolia®)
Intended indication:	Treatment of Osteoporosis in post menopausal women at increased risk of fracture
Status of medicine or treatment:	Licensed indication for licensed medicine; On GGC Total Formulary. GGC formulary states: Osteoporosis: Use in the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women, restricted to use in those patients for whom oral bisphosphonates are unsuitable, contraindicated or not tolerated in accordance with local protocol.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACUTE CARE/SPECIALIST SERVICE (CONSULTANT):

- The specialist team will discuss the benefits and side effects of this treatment with patient (or carer) and provide Patient Information Leaflet.
- The specialist team will explain the potential risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw and advise patients on precautions to take - see MHRA advice and BNF
- The specialist team will discuss the responsibilities of patient/carer (below) before progressing denosumab treatment plan.
- The specialist team will ensure all appropriate investigations are arranged, carried out and results reviewed prior to any recommendation around initiation of therapy. Where any relevant biochemical abnormality is detected this will be addressed by secondary care team prior to advising commencing denosumab therapy.
- The specialist team will accept re-referral of patients with hypocalcaemia/borderline hypocalcaemia.
- The specialist team will liaise with the primary care team in the event of any queries around the treatment, the finding of abnormal results or management of side-effects.
- The specialist team will provide primary care prescribers with the relevant secretary number for each service in written correspondence to facilitate seamless communication in the event of any queries.
The specialist team will ensure patients on long-term treatments are seen for review after a referral is made from primary care. This review should generally be at around 3 years of therapy. The Direct Access DXA Service (DADS) review consists of both DXA and clinic review with clinical nurse specialist. To ensure this review takes place within the required timeframe, taking into account waiting times for DXA; this referral can be made after treatment 4 or 5 (i.e. after around 2 years of therapy). This will allow a 3 year review to be planned in advance. The specialist team will arrange that the DADS appointment is then set up to coincide with around 3 years of denosumab treatment.
- The specialist team will advise primary care on the outcome of the DADS assessment and further treatment plans.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIMARY CARE TEAM

- The primary care team will ensure denosumab is added to the patient's drug record
- The primary care team will prescribe and administer denosumab therapy as soon as practicable after secondary care recommendation.
- Drug administration may be by GP or a designated nurse.
- A recall is to be set up by the practice to ensure 6 monthly injections are administered.
- At each 6 month review patients should be asked about adherence to calcium and vitamin D (or vitamin D only preparations).
- Provide monitoring as per the current Near Patient Testing LES specification.
- Primary care will re-refer the patient to Direct Access DXA as per Near Patient Testing LES specification.
- GP/designated nurse may report to and seek advice at any time from the secondary team around any aspect of patient care relating to bone health that is of concern.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PATIENT/CARER:

- Patient must attend hospital or GP clinic appointments. Failure to attend appointments may result in treatment being stopped.
- Patient/carer will report to the specialist team or GP any concerns they might have around treatment.
- Patients should be encouraged to report symptoms of hypocalcaemia – as detailed in patient information leaflet supplied by the secondary care clinic. Patients should be encouraged to follow MHRA advice relating to osteonecrosis of the jaw and advise their dentist that they are being treated with denosumab – as detailed in patient information leaflet supplied by the secondary care clinic.
- Patients should be encouraged to report persistent thigh pain – as detailed in patient information leaflet supplied by the secondary care clinic.
- Patient/carer will report any adverse effects of the treatment to GP or specialist team.
- Patient/carer may request specialist appointment out with anticipated timeframe via GP/designated nurse if he/she has specific concerns.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- None

CAUTIONS:

Hypocalcaemia

It is important to identify patients at risk for hypocalcaemia. Blood calcium concentration will be assessed (and addressed if out with range) by the secondary care team prior to commencement of therapy.

Vitamin D

Vitamin D status will be assessed (and addressed if out with range) by the secondary care team prior to commencement of therapy.

Measurement of vitamin D is not routinely required once treatment has been started assuming the patient is also being treated with a calcium & vitamin D supplement (or vitamin D alone).

Renal Failure

Patients with renal failure (eGFR <30ml/min) are at greater risk of hypocalcaemia – patients should be made aware of this risk and be made aware of the symptoms of hypocalcaemia. Where these symptoms are mild these should be discussed initially with GP. Patients with symptoms suggesting severe hypocalcaemia out of hours should contact NHS 24.

Patients with progressive deterioration in renal function should be more closely monitored. For monitoring arrangements, please refer to current Near Patient Testing LES specification.

N.B Denosumab has no adverse effect on renal function; however patients may experience a decline in renal function as part of the normal aging process or for other patient specific reasons.

Osteonecrosis of the jaw

Although osteonecrosis of the jaw is rarely described; patients should be advised to tell their dentist they are on denosumab therapy prior to dental work. Please refer to SPC and BNF/MHRA for advice and risk factors for the development of ONJ.

Atypical fractures

Atypical (sub-trochanteric) fractures are rare with denosumab therapy and would not be expected within the first 3-5 years of treatment. Patients should be advised to report any femoral shaft bone pain. If this symptom occurs plain x-ray of femur should be arranged.

Skin Infections

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Although uncommon, patients receiving denosumab may develop skin infections (predominantly cellulitis) leading to hospitalisation. Patients should be advised to seek prompt medical attention if they develop signs or symptoms of cellulitis.

Latex Allergy

The needle cover of the pre-filled syringe contains dry natural rubber (a derivative of latex). Denosumab should be used with caution in patients with a known latex allergy. Clinicians who have latex allergy should refer to [NHSGGC Safe Use of Latex Policy](#)

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Uncorrected Hypocalcaemia (see above).

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients - refer to Summary of Product Characteristics (link to electronic Medicines Compendium below in *Supporting Documentation* section).

TYPICAL DOSAGE REGIMENS:

Route of administration:	Subcutaneous injection
Recommended starting dose:	60mg
Titration of dose:	No titration
Maximum dose:	60mg once every 6 months
Adjunctive treatment regimen:	Calcium and vitamin D (as per GGC Formulary) /Vitamin D
Conditions requiring dose adjustment:	None
Usual response time:	Within first 6 months
Duration of treatment	3 years in first instance

SIGNIFICANT DRUG INTERACTIONS:

There are no known clinically relevant drug interactions with denosumab.

Refer to Summary of Product Characteristics (link to electronic Medicines Compendium below in *Supporting Documentation* section).

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UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS:

Refer to current SPC for more detailed information

- ADR classification - very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$) and very rare ($< 1/10,000$) based on crude incidence rates.

Refer to Summary of Product Characteristics (link to electronic Medicines Compendium below in *Supporting Documentation* section).

ADR details (where possible indicate if common, rare or serious)	ADR details (where possible indicate if common, rare or serious)	Management of ADR
Pain in extremity	Very common	Treat as appropriate
Musculoskeletal pain	Very common	Treat as appropriate
Urinary tract infection	Common	Treat as appropriate
Upper respiratory tract infection	Common	Treat as appropriate
Sciatica	Common	Treat as appropriate
Cataracts	Common	Treat as appropriate
Constipation	Common	Treat as appropriate
Abdominal discomfort	Common	Treat as appropriate
Rash	Common	Treat as appropriate
Eczema	Common	Treat as appropriate
Diverticulitis	Uncommon	Treat as appropriate
Cellulitis	Uncommon	Treat as appropriate; Contact appropriate secondary care team
Ear infection	Uncommon	Treat as appropriate
Osteonecrosis of the jaw	Rare	Contact appropriate secondary care team
Atypical femoral fractures	Rare	Contact appropriate secondary care team
Drug hypersensitivity	Rare	Contact appropriate secondary care team
Anaphylactic reaction	Rare	Treat as appropriate; Contact appropriate secondary care team
Hypocalcaemia	Rare	Contact appropriate secondary care team

BASELINE INVESTIGATIONS:

- Patients who might be considered appropriate for denosumab should have bone density measured and be seen through a GGC Mineral Metabolism Clinic or have the treatment recommended following assessment via the Direct Access DXA Service or the Fracture Liaison Service.
- All necessary baseline investigations will be arranged by secondary care teams as above.

MONITORING (PRIMARY CARE):

- For monitoring arrangements, please refer to current Near Patient Testing LES specification.

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MONITORING (ACUTE SECTOR):

- The following monitoring is to be undertaken in Acute Care

Monitoring Parameters	Frequency	Laboratory results	Action to be taken
DXA	DXA will be carried out before treatment commenced. Repeat DXA measure should be considered after 3 years denosumab therapy (patients can be referred for this via DADS)		

PHARMACEUTICAL ASPECTS:

- Shelf life 3 years if stored in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C).
- Denosumab injection may be stored at room temperature (up to 25°C) for up to 30 days in the original container.

COST:

PLEASE NOTE: All medicines included in a shared care protocol that meet the criteria for a “high cost expensive medicine” and are prescribed in accordance with the shared care protocol are automatically accounted for in the “high cost/ expensive medicines list” for budget-setting purposes. No additional action is therefore required by GPs to request funding. For those medicines which are the subject of a shared care protocol but which do not meet the high cost expensive medicines criteria, transfer of prescribing costs will be considered if this is appropriate.

- 60mg/ml solution in pre-filled syringe (Prolia®), 1ml = £183.00.

INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACIST:

- Store in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C).
- Do not freeze.

ACUTE CARE/SPECIALIST SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name	Designation	Acute Site	Department phone number
Dr Stephen Gallacher	Consultant Physician & Endocrinologist	QEUH	0141 451 6142
Dr Stephen Gallacher	Consultant Physician & Endocrinologist	West Glasgow Ambulatory Care Hospital (WG ACH)	0141 451 6188
Dr Chris Sainsbury	Consultant	WG ACH	0141 451 6188
Dr Maurizio Panarelli	Consultant Clinical Biochemist	Stobhill	0141 2320830
Dr Clare Harrow	Consultant - Diabetes & Endocrinology	RAH	0141 314 9775
Dr Lisa Hutton	Consultant	IRH	01475 504771

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- Summary of Product characteristics: can be accessed via <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc>
- Manufacturers Patient Information leaflet: can be accessed via <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc>
- Information about Denosumab (Prolia) patient leaflet developed by NHSGGC Acute Services Division is located in the [shared care protocol](#) section of the GGC prescribing website.