

Table 1: medication costs for a treatment course of osteoporosis.

Medication	Cost/infusion or tablet	Usage	Total cost	Cost/Year
zoledronate 5mg	\$60	3 infusions over 5 years	\$180	\$36
zoledronate 4mg	\$18	3 infusions over 5 years	\$54	\$11
alendronate 70mg	\$0.61	weekly for 5 years	\$159	\$32
alendronate 70mg/vitamin D	\$0.38	weekly for 5 years	\$98	\$20
risedronate 35mg	\$0.78	weekly for 5 years	\$202	\$40

Box 1: examples of clinical recommendations supported by the Endocrinology PTAC Sub-committee not actioned by PHARMAC.

Medication and recommended indication	Rationale
Eplerenone for men with primary hyperaldosteronism who are intolerant of spironolactone ³	No effective alternative
Cinacalcet for patients with severe primary hyperparathyroidism for whom surgery is contraindicated ⁴	No effective alternative
Reconfigured special authority criteria for denosumab ⁵ and teriparatide ⁶	Need for second-line therapy for contraindications to, or intolerance of, bisphosphonates
Micronised progesterone for post-menopausal women ⁷	Improved safety and tolerability
Octreotide for TSH-secreting macroadenoma ⁸	Efficacy in tumour control
Transdermal testosterone (gels) for male hypogonadism ⁹	Need for effective and well-tolerated non-parenteral treatment