**PLEASE ACT** and answer a survey by Pharmacare (Ph) (estimated 10-15 minutes)

**WHY:** There is a chance that Ph may change if enough patients respond.

**WHATABOUT:** Osteoporosis (OP) therapy/medications.

**WHO:** Anyone can respond, patient or medical staff, young or older, with or without OP

**WHEN:** October 20 to November 17—please do it now.

**WHERE:** This must be done online, so if you need, please ask a friend for help.

**DETAILS:** BC currently has the worst access to OP medications in Canada, and even then all these meds require the Doctor to obtain a Special Authorization (SA), and in addition the SA is limited only to patients who have already suffered a fracture. Many Doctors refuse to perform this extra unpaid work, assuming that the patient will not get coverage anyway. I suggest you consider if Ph refused to pay for hypertension medications until after you suffered a stroke or heart attack.

Do you have OP? Does Ph pay for some or none? Do you pay out of your own pocket or does a family or friend help pay for you? Do you know a family or friend with OP? If you believe current Ph coverage of OP meds is unfair, then you can help, even if you do not have OP.

Do you believe that patients at risk of fracture should be helped with medications? BC is the only province in Canada that refuses to pay for patients at risk.

Many of my patients have started OP meds over the last 15 years, and most have paid out of pocket. The meds are good and reduce OP fractures by at least 50%, proven in good studies. OP is a major cost to Canada’s healthcare system and some studies have shown it costs significantly more than cardiac care. At least ⅓ of women and ⅕ of men will suffer an OP fracture in their lifetime. Obstructing or delaying OP treatment costs the patient, with pain and disability which can be permanent, and costs the system extra money—lost in the silo accounting system.

Dr. Tom Elliott, a local diabetes expert, was successful in achieving coverage for blood glucose monitors after an unprecedented number of patient survey inputs. Although the coverage is limited to patients with type 1 diabetes, this was a big step. We need to repeat this please.

I belong to the BCCOP (the BC Coalition of Osteoporosis Physicians) and you can easily get more information at [www.bccop.org](http://www.bccop.org/).

My sincere thanks, your personal physician,