



## Your Doctor does not have access to the tools required to deal with your osteoporosis.

### BC Pharmacare has amongst the most restrictive access to osteoporosis medications in Canada.

- Fractures deprive our seniors of independence and frequently lead to placement in chronic care facilities
- Treatments which can significantly reduce fracture risk have been available for 25 years and despite their low cost, Pharmacare restricts access. Your Doctor must fill a form to be approved by a Pharmacare technician before any osteoporosis therapy would be funded.
- For alendronate (Fosamax) and risedronate (Actonel) tablets, there must be a fracture before your Doctor can gain “special authority” Pharmacare access
- For zoledronate (Aclasta) infusion or denosumab (Prolia) injection, there must be a fracture and a documented obstruction to swallowing the pill before Pharmacare will grant “special authority”.
- Examples of people with osteoporosis who cannot access to essential medications through Pharmacare:
  - alendronate for a 75-year-old woman with BMD T score -4.0 and very high fracture risk but without existing fracture
  - denosumab for an 80-year-old woman with BMD T score -3.5 and significant declines after five years on alendronate
  - zoledronate for a 65-year-old man with hip fracture and severe acid reflux on alendronate
  - denosumab, romosozumab or teriparatide for a 70-year-old woman with BMD T score -3.8 and multiple vertebral fractures
  - denosumab for a 63-year-old woman with BMD T score -3.2 and moderate kidney failure (alendronate cannot be given)
- **BCCOP is the BC Coalition of Osteoporosis Physicians.** We are encouraging patients and patient advocacy groups to participate in the “Patient Voice” survey conducted by BC Pharmacare. Improvements in access to therapies may be possible if enough concerned individuals complete the survey.

The survey will be open for patient participation from October 20, 2021 until November 17, 2021. Responses must be online through the government website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/drug-review-process-results/your-voice>.

You can also find details and the website link on the BCCOP website: [www.BCCOP.org](http://www.BCCOP.org).