

# Are you prescribing this medication in accordance with the PBS restrictions?



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Alendronate Sodium Tablet 70 mg</b>  | Alendro Once Weekly®, Fosamax Once Weekly®                                    |
| <b>Risedronate Sodium Tablet 5 mg</b><br><b>Risedronate Sodium Tablet 35 mg</b> | Actonel®<br>Actonel Once-a-Week®  |
| <b>Risedronate Sodium Tablet 35 mg and Calcium Carbonate 1.25 g Pack</b>        | Actonel Combi®  |
| <b>Disodium Etidronate 200 mg and Calcium Carbonate 1.25 g Pack</b>             | Didrocal®   |
| <b>Calcitriol Capsule 0.25 microgram</b>  | Calcitriol-DP®, Citrihexal®, GenRx Calcitriol®, Kosteo®, Rocaltrol®, Sitriol® |
| <b>Raloxifene Hydrochloride Tablet 60mg</b>                                     | Evista®   |

These medications are listed on the PBS as 'authority required' benefits and as such require prior approval from Medicare Australia. They are subsidised on the PBS only when the patient meets the PBS restriction criteria.

These authority-required medications are subsidised on the PBS for:

- **initial treatment where the patient has established osteoporosis and has previously suffered a fracture due to minimal trauma.**
- **continuing treatment where the patient has previously had an approval from Medicare Australia for the same medicine.**

To confirm patient eligibility for PBS subsidy the fracture must be proven by either an X-ray, CT-scan or MRI scan, and the year that the investigation was performed must be provided to Medicare Australia at the time of the authority application.

**Note:** With the exception of calcitriol, these medications are PBS subsidised only when they are the sole anti-resorptive agent for treatment of that patient.

**Alendronate Sodium** and **Risedronate Sodium** are also subsidised on the PBS for symptomatic Paget's disease of bone.



**Calcitriol** is also subsidised on the PBS for:

- **hypocalcaemia due to renal disease**
- **hypoparathyroidism**
- **hypophosphataemic rickets**
- **vitamin D-resistant rickets.**

**Raloxifene Hydrochloride** is subsidised on the PBS for established post-menopausal osteoporosis in patients with fracture due to minimal trauma.

These criteria can be found in the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits (the Schedule), or online at [www1.health.gov.au/pbs](http://www1.health.gov.au/pbs)

Medicare Australia recognises that you have the responsibility for recommending the treatment for your patients. However, when prescribing PBS restricted medicine you are legally obliged to ensure that your patient meets the PBS restriction criteria. If your patient does not meet the PBS restriction criteria and you still wish to prescribe the medicine, you must write a non-PBS prescription. When using PBS stationery to write a non-PBS prescription, you must strike out the PBS/RPBS letters and boxes. Writing 'Non-PBS' on the script will reinforce your intention and will help to avoid confusion at the pharmacy.

This information is provided to enhance your awareness of and promote compliance with the PBS restriction criteria for the above medication. It aims to assist you to determine which of your patients are eligible to receive PBS subsidised medicine.

## How can Medicare Australia help you?

For more information about the content of this information sheet please call a Medicare Australia Adviser in your state:

---

|         |                    |                |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|
| NSW/ACT | Selena Wu          | (02) 9895 3274 |
| QLD     | Mitchell Claes     | (07) 3004 5461 |
| SA/NT   | Bui Vuong          | (08) 8274 9362 |
| TAS     | Rory Gilmour       | (03) 6215 5673 |
| VIC     | Anton McAnda       | (03) 9605 7007 |
| WA      | Melanie McCutcheon | (08) 9214 8136 |

---

Medicare Australia has developed a "sticky note" that can be attached to the prescription to help you explain non-PBS prescriptions to your patients. These can be ordered by downloading an order form at [http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/programs\\_services/PBS/education.htm](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/programs_services/PBS/education.htm)

and faxing to 02 612 46006.

In addition, PBS education is now available to help doctors better understand the PBS restrictions and is available online at: [www.PriMed.com.au](http://www.PriMed.com.au)

**Disclaimer:** The information contained in this document was correct at the time of publication (April 2006). The reader should refer to the current Schedule for up-to-date information.