

10<sup>th</sup> June 2005

DH circular: 105/05

To all: Consultants  
Senior Registrars  
Registrars

**Re: Entitlement of patients suffering from osteoporosis to free treatment.**

Patients with osteoporosis are entitled for free treatment **ONLY** if the disease occurs as a complication of a disease listed in Schedule V of the Social Security Act, or if it occurs as a result of treatment (whether medical or surgical) of one of the conditions listed. Patients with primary osteoporosis are **NOT** eligible for free treatment.

This policy was established several years ago and has not been revised or revoked.

Bisphosphonates are protocol regulated medicines, and can be dispensed without payment only for conditions covered by the established protocols. This applies both for in-patients and for out-patients.

For your attention.

Dr Ray Busuttill,  
Director General Health