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## BONESOURCE ALERT

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September 2020 Issue

### NOF UPDATES



BoneSource®, NOF's professional program, promotes excellence in clinical care for all healthcare professionals involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis. Through the BoneSource website, we offer a variety of programs, tools, and resources to meet the unique needs of healthcare professionals who provide bone health care. Join NOF as a professional member to gain full access to BoneSource.

Visit [BoneSource®](#)

#### NOF Membership

NOF members are at the forefront of patient care and the first to receive breaking news, research updates, practice tools, patient education materials, and notification of public comment opportunities related to important government initiatives. Membership in NOF will help build your practice, keep your team informed, provide CME credits,

### BONE HEALTH RESOURCES

#### ECHO SESSIONS



#### NOF FLS Bone Health TeleECHO

Join us for the FLS Bone Health ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) project sessions that take place the second Thursday of each month, from 3-4pm Eastern. These one-hour Tele ECHO Clinic sessions offer case-based clinical discussions on a wide range of topics of interest. By participating, attendees will be able to receive free CME, connect with experts in the field, share case studies, and much more!

#### Upcoming FLS Bone Health ECHO sessions:

Thursday, October 8, 2020 03:00 PM-4:00 PM Eastern Time

Speaker: Dr. Marcy Bolster

Topic: Preventing Recurrent Fractures

and allow you access to key osteoporosis experts.

For more information on professional membership, please [click here](#).

### **COVID-19 Updates and Resources**

#### **[Prolia® At-Home Nurse Injection Program](#)**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may have concerns about continuity of care for your existing Prolia® patients. To help your patients avoid missing or postponing their scheduled injection, Amgen is now offering the short-term Prolia® At-Home Nurse Injection Program for patients who are unable or unwilling to leave home and/or do not have an available treatment site in their area. If eligible, patients can have Prolia® administered right in their homes by a Home Health Registered Nurse (RN).

While Prolia® is typically covered under the patient's regular pharmacy benefit (with any applicable patient co-pays continuing to apply), the nurse visit and administration of the injection would be provided at no cost. \*

\*Patient coverage, out-of-pocket cost, and insurance requirements may vary.

#### **[Ask the Expert: Dr. Lewiecki Shares Invaluable Insight on Best Telemedicine Practices During the Pandemic](#)**

The COVID-19 pandemic and mandated social distancing have forced healthcare providers to quickly determine how to use technology to provide patient care. A recent NOF survey revealed that more than 60 percent of healthcare providers are offering telemedicine visits by phone or videoconference. Since March 2020, more than one third (36%) of patient respondents have participated in technology-driven appointments. Overall, the feedback has been very positive with 77 percent indicating that their telemedicine appointment was easy, convenient, a good quality visit and safe. NOF's Dr. Lewiecki shares excellent

**[Thursday, November 12, 2020 03:00 PM-4:00 PM Eastern Time](#)**

Speaker: Dr. Jay Ginther

Topic: Beyond Simply DXA: The Bone Surgeon Perspective

**[Thursday, December 10, 2020 03:00 PM-4:00 PM Eastern Time](#)**

Speaker: Dr. Kristi Tough DeSapri

Topic: Menopause and Hormone Therapy

[Sign up here to join our email list](#) and receive information on FLS ECHO sessions as they are planned.

### **Bone Health TeleECHO**

Despite the availability of treatments proven to reduce fracture risk and the accumulating evidence that osteoporosis treatment can prolong life, osteoporosis remains underdiagnosed and undertreated. Only about 20 percent of patients with hip fractures receive treatment to reduce the risk of future fractures. Each week, bone health experts and other clinicians from around the world come together to listen to a brief didactic in the latest topics in bone health and discuss complex cases around treating patients with osteoporosis and other bone disorders. The aim of Bone Health TeleECHO is to improve the care of patients with osteoporosis and reduce the osteoporosis treatment gap.

To Register, please [click here](#).

### **MNI Great Lake ECHO**

The Michigan Neurosurgical Institute (MNI) Great Lakes ECHO branch is one of the first ECHO providers in the state of Michigan. The Great Lakes ECHO brings better care to patients across the country using new methods made possible by modern technology.

To Register Email:  
[MNIGreatLakesEcho@gmail.com](mailto:MNIGreatLakesEcho@gmail.com)

insight and perspective on what patients can expect from this new form of healthcare.

To read more about Best Telemedicine Practices, [please click here](#)

### **World Osteoporosis Day**

October 20th is World Osteoporosis Day. Please join NOF and organizations across the globe in raising awareness and resources to promote better bone health!

To commemorate World Osteoporosis Day, the New York State Osteoporosis Prevention and Education Program in collaboration with NOF have teamed up to conduct a webinar for patients and caregivers. The webinar will focus on important exercise and nutrition information for good bone health. It is a must-attend event for everyone interested in learning more about this debilitating disease, which is preventable and treatable. [Register today!](#)

## **ADVOCACY UPDATE**



### **National Bone Health Policy Institute**

NOF's [Bone Health Policy Institute](#) has been moving forward on action steps after the release of our Economic and Human Impact of Osteoporosis report commissioned by NOF and conducted by the actuarial firm, Milliman. The Coalition to Strengthen Bone Health met in the beginning of July to discuss 2020 activities including a congressional appropriations letter being sent to leaders on the Hill, National Osteoporosis Month, and COVID-

### **Own the Bone® Orthopaedic Bone Health ECHO®**

The Own the Bone® Orthopaedic Bone Health ECHO® aims to grow and share bone health knowledge and skills among orthopaedic providers in order to reduce the incidence of fragility fractures and positively impact bone health treatment. Each month, a panel of experts will host participants on a videoconferencing platform (Zoom ) to discuss current topics related to bone health and to initiate a dialogue around patient cases presented by participants. These "teleECHO® clinics" are multidisciplinary and interactive, so participants are encouraged to learn but also to share their knowledge and experiences.

To Register, please [click here](#).

## **BONE EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**



### **Osteoporosis Case Clinics**

In collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and Haymarket Medical Education (HME), the following courses are intended for family physicians, endocrinologists, internists, obstetrician-gynecologists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who manage the care of patients with or at risk for osteoporosis.

19 resources and responses. Our action agenda for the rest of the year includes planning future work for a state data project and sending a letter to CMS in regarding the benefits of telemedicine.

NOF has also sent letters to the Trump and Biden campaigns alerting them to the crisis in osteoporosis and our action agenda.

To view the letters, please select the link below:

[September 23, 2020 - Letter to President Donald J. Trump](#)

[September 23, 2020 - Letter to the Honorable Joseph Biden](#)

NOF is grateful to the individual donors and corporations, including Amgen Inc. and UCB, Inc., who provide support for the National Bone Health Policy Institute.

### **Musculoskeletal Health Issues for Candidates for Election**

The USBJI has developed a Position Paper on the musculoskeletal (MSK) health issues federal candidates for election in 2020 should include as part of their health policy proposals and programs.

As newly elected officials begin their service and establish health policy, it is important that America's most prevalent and disabling musculoskeletal disorders are front and center and included in policy discussions in a meaningful way.

Musculoskeletal disorders are generally under-appreciated, under-resourced and under-funded. This is an opportunity for them to be included at the start of a re-elected or new administration.

[Link to the USBJI Position Paper](#)

Participants can earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit at no cost! Register now to gain access to these courses:

[Case Clinic 2: Initiating Osteoporosis Treatment and Shared Decision-Making](#)

[Case Clinic 3: Osteoporosis Treatment Follow-up and Adherence](#)

These activities are supported by educational funding provided by Amgen.

### **Provider Compliance Focus Group**

CMS is hosting a Provider Compliance Focus Group (PCG) on the Zoom webinar platform, **October 19, 2020, from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. ET**. PCG will host a 3-hour virtual session to address medical review and prior authorization. They will also solicit feedback via a question and answer session during this event.

Registration will be required for this event and an invitation with specific details will be sent. Please note that the PCG Provider Compliance Focus Group is online only and is open to the public. If you have any questions, please email [CPI\\_Events@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:CPI_Events@cms.hhs.gov).

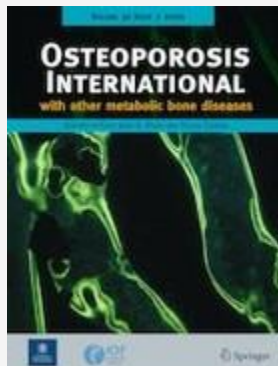


## **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Professional Learning Center**

NOF is committed to supporting

## FROM OUR JOURNALS



### **Racial disparities, FRAX, and the care of patients with osteoporosis**

E.M. Lewiecki, N.C. Wright & A.J. Singer  
**Editorial**

### **Vertebral fracture assessment (VFA) for osteoporosis screening in US postmenopausal women: is it cost-effective?**

J. Yang, F. Cosman, P.W. Stone, M. Li & J.W. Nieves

#### **Summary**

Vertebral fracture assessment (VFA) is cost-effective when it was incorporated in the routine screening for osteoporosis in community-dwelling women aged  $\geq 65$  years, which support guidelines, such as the National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF) for the diagnostic use of VFA as an important addition to fracture risk assessment.

### **Forearm bone mineral density and fracture incidence in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis: results from the ACTIVEExtend phase 3 trial**

N.B. Watts, R.K. Dore, S. Baim, B. Mitlak, G. Hattersley, Y. Wang, T.D. Rozentel & M.S. LeBoff

#### **Summary**

Abaloparatide increased ultradistal radius bone mineral density (BMD) in the Abaloparatide Comparator Trial in Vertebral Endpoints (ACTIVE) trial. Over

healthcare professionals and your continuing education needs.

NOF provides a variety of continuing medical education programs for professionals. The [Professional Learning Center](#) offers a single place for you to participate in bone health education programs as well as track your participation to meet your licensure and professional requirements.

Visit the [Professional Learning Center](#) to learn more and participate in sessions.

### **FLS Coding Guide**

NOF's Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) Coding Guide provides details on currently available quality and value-based codes to help offset costs for FLS implementation in various settings. This is a general guide offering a broad overview to help get you started. Please refer to your individual institution for more details. Proper coding is vitally important as reimbursement for services can vary on the state and/or specialty as the type of provider who bills for and performs the service. In order to ensure that you are being fully reimbursed and remain in compliance with payer requirements, we recommend that you discuss the codes that are the best fit for your FLS with your FLS billing specialist.

This coding guide was made available in part thanks to a grant from Amgen.

[Download the 2020 FLS Coding Guide](#)

### **Vertebral Compressional Fracture Bundle 2019-2020**

Thanks to an educational grant from Medtronic, NOF's Professional Learning Center contains the Vertebral Compression Fracture Bundle 2019-2021. [This bundle](#) includes informative activities on the identifying, understanding, management of vertebral fractures.

### **Healthy Bones for Life Guides**

the subsequent 24 months in ACTIVEExtend, ultradistal radius BMD gains were maintained with alendronate. Conversely, 1/3 radius BMD remained stable during ALN treatment in ACTIVEExtend after decreasing during ACTIVE.

**Few fragility fracture patients perceive that their bone health is affected by their comorbidities and medications**

J.E.M. Sale, L. Frankel, E. Bogoch, M. Gignac, G. Hawker, V. Elliot-Gibson, R. Jain & L. Funnell

**Summary**

We examined fragility fracture patients' perceptions of associations between bone health and other chronic conditions and medications. Awareness of the associations between bone health and these conditions and medications was low. Providers should increase patients' awareness of these associations in order to minimize the risk of future fracture.

The purpose of this [osteoporosis clinician training guide](#) is to provide clinicians and health educators with an outline to guide a conversation with patients about their skeletal health and provide information about treatment and fracture prevention. Along with the clinician's guide, there is a [patient training guide](#) to have a conversation with the members of their healthcare team about keeping their skeleton strong and improving your bone health.

[Download the Patient Guide](#)

[Download the Clinician Guide](#)

## SUPPORT NOF

At the National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF), we are very grateful to the healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to help prevent debilitating and deadly fractures, for the caregivers who support patients with osteoporosis, and especially our generous donors who support our mission. You make our work possible!

Critical to NOF's ability to successfully carry out its mission is the need for fundraising support from individual donors and family foundations. NOF depends on the generosity of individuals across the country to educate the public and health professionals on ways to prevent, diagnose and treat osteoporosis. As we continue our work in these areas, we have been paying special attention to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our patients, caregivers and the healthcare providers who treat them. Generosity comes in many forms, and it is often the best way for you to support important causes that matter the most to you in your life. When you give to National Osteoporosis Foundation, you help us make a difference. If you would like to find out more about how you can help NOF with its fundraising efforts, please contact our CEO, Claire Gill, at [claire.gill@nof.org](mailto:claire.gill@nof.org).

