

Zoledronate Infusion Subsidy Scheme

Information for GPs

A. What is the subsidy scheme

CMDHB will subsidise the administration of Zoledronate upon application by their GP, for patients who fulfil specified criteria. Application is required for EACH DOSE.

Zoledronate can be administered by GPs at their rooms, or at an Approved Infusion Centre upon referral.

B. Criteria for Subsidy

The following criteria must be met to be eligible for subsidy:

1. Pharmac Special Authority application approved, AND
2. Patient resident in CMDHB catchment area, AND
3. Patients eGFR >35, AND
4. Patient holds a CSC card

AND

1. Recommended by hospital specialist, including previous administration as an inpatient or outpatient, OR
2. Serious adverse reaction to Alendronate documented (see G below)

C. Subsidy Amount

The total amount claimable under this scheme is \$80 including GST. The expectation is that any surcharge over and above this subsidy will not exceed a standard consultation fee.

Subsidy Frequency

Most patients can be managed with 3 infusions 18 months apart. Where bone density is very low, or the patient suffers a subsequent low-trauma/fragility fracture, the infusions may be indicated 12 monthly. Where bone density fails to improve sufficiently, additional infusions may be indicated.

Zoledronate Infusion Subsidy Scheme

Information for GPs

D. Who can claim

Any registered Medical Practitioner

E. How to apply for the subsidy

- Complete the application form, fax **(09) 535 7154** or email to referrals@poac.co.nz
- When approved, we will provide you with a claim voucher
- Upon successful completion of the infusion process, forward an invoice with the claim voucher attached.
- If you refer the patient to an Approved Infusion Centre, you must provide them with the claim voucher.

F. Referral to an Approved Infusion Centre

Please include the following in your referral:

- Patient details: Name, Address, NHI, DOB
- Clinical details: eGFR, serum Calcium, comorbidities, medications.
- Zoledronate Infusion Subsidy Scheme voucher
- Please provide your patient with a prescription for Zoledronate in advance of the infusion visit, and advise them to collect the medication and take with them when they attend for the infusion.

A list of POAC infusion centres is available online.

G. Follow Up

The referring GP remains responsible for recall of the patient to arrange subsequent bone density assessments and infusions.

H. Guidance on Intolerance to Alendronate

This subsidy is available for patients who experience a **serious** adverse reaction to Alendronate. This would be expected to have resulted in a notification to the Centre for Adverse Reaction Monitoring (CARM). CARM notifications can be made online at: <https://nzphvc-01.otago.ac.nz/carm-adr/onlineADR.php?en-nz=176>.

Zoledronate Infusion Subsidy Scheme

Information for GPs

The most common adverse experiences are oesophagitis, oesophageal ulcers and oesophageal erosions, rarely followed by oesophageal stricture or perforation. Endoscopic confirmation of any of these occurring whilst taking Alendronate would suffice, but in addition any patient who develops dysphagia, odynophagia, retrosternal pain or new or worsening heartburn would be considered eligible provided that a CARM notification has been submitted.

I. Resources

The following resources are available online at www.poac.co.nz

- Zoledronate Subsidy application form
- List of Approved Infusion Centres
- Zoledronate patient information sheet
- Zoledronate administration protocol
- Zoledronate administration checklist
- Patient consent form

For further information phone (09) 5357218