

Bisphosphonate medicines under scrutiny by Intensive Medicines Monitoring Programme (IMMP)

An article in NZ Doctor of 27 March drew attention to the fact that bisphosphonates, used to treat osteoporosis, are being monitored by IMMP for their use and safety. The IMMP website www.otago.ac.nz/immp indicates monitoring began on 1 April 2012. Doctors prescribing bisphosphonates are being asked to tell patients these medicines are being monitored and to provide patients with a copy of the IMMP leaflet.

IMMP is also studying the incidence of osteonecrosis of the jaw, a rare but severe adverse reaction associated with bisphosphonate treatment. To that end they have written to all dentists and oral specialists in NZ enclosing reporting forms for them to report any cases they come across.

Breast cancer leading cause of alcohol attributable death in NZ women

<http://www.hiirc.org.nz/page/40696/>

Achieving health targets, come hell or high water

The outcomes of the first disciplinary hearings to take place following the 'targets' scandal in the UK have been reported in their media. Two nurses have been struck off for their atrocious behaviour. This doesn't make for pretty reading:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2377974/Two-nurses-struck-faking-records-scandal-hit-Stafford-hospital-racist-staff-black-people-wait-longer.html>