**Teriparatide and Biosimilars**

**February 2023**

## **Switching from Forsteo® to Movymia®**

This leaflet contains information about your medicines for your osteoporosis condition and our plan to switch your treatment from Forsteo® to Movymia®. If you have any further questions after reading this leaflet, please speak to <insert name and contact details for relevant clinical team member>.

## **Why am I receiving this leaflet?**

You are currently undergoing treatment with teriparatide (Forsteo®). You may be aware that the patent for Forsteo® has expired and other versions of teriparatide, including biosimilar medicines, have now been approved and are available to patients. The HSE now recommends that patients receive Movymia® as the biosimilar version of Forsteo®.

## **What is a biosimilar?**

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) defines a biosimilar medicine as a biological medicine that is highly similar to another biological medicine that is already approved in the EU, in terms of quality, safety and effectiveness.

This means that biosimilar medicines (such as Movymia®) are allowed to have small structural differences from the original biological medicine (Forsteo®) but this must not alter how well the drug works, how safe it is, or how the drug reacts with the body’s immune system.

Biosimilar medicines are regulated in a similar way to the original biological medicine. The EMA has approved the use of Movymia® as it has been shown to be as safe and effective as Forsteo®.

We are confident that Movymia® is just as effective and has the same safety profile as Forsteo®. Movymia® costs less than Forsteo®. Switching patients to Movymia® will save the HSE money. This will help the HSE give new innovative medicines to even more patients.

## **What does this mean for me?**

Because Movymia® and Forsteo® contain the same active medicine (teriparatide), treatment for your osteoporosis remains unchanged.

Like Forsteo®, Movymia® is given by subcutaneous injection. With Forsteo®, you received a new pre-filled pen each month. When you collect your Movymia® for the first time, you will be given a re-usable pen and a cartridge containing the teriparatide. You will then collect a new cartridge each month from your pharmacy and place this into the re-usable pen.

You will continue to inject Movymia® once a day, as you currently do with Forsteo®.

You will continue to get your repeat prescription from us, and you can collect Movymia® from the same pharmacy that provided you with Forsteo®.

Supports for patients prescribed Movymia® include:

* nurse home visit to provide training on administering the injection
* supply of sharps bins and waste collection service
* provision of product information

We will register you for these services.

## **Will any additional monitoring be required?**

We are not required to make any additional safety checks in patients who are switched to Movymia® but we still plan to monitor every patient who switches. You will be contacted by a member of our team four weeks after you switch so that we can check that Movymia® is working just as well as Forsteo® and to follow-up on any issues you may have encountered.

If you do have a problem with Movymia®, for example having trouble using the injection device or experiencing side-effects, we can help you to manage these.

## **What if I have further questions?**

If you have concerns about switching to Movymia®, we are here to help. Please ask <insert name of relevant clinical team member>. If necessary, they will arrange an appointment with one of the doctors to answer any further questions you may have.

## **Contact us**

If you have any further questions, please contact the <insert name of clinic/service> on <insert number + staff member name> (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or you can email [insertemail@xxxx.ie](mailto:insertemail@xxxx.ie).

## **Where can I get more information on biosimilar medicines?**

Further information for patients on biosimilar medicines is available on the following websites:

**HSE-Medicines Management Programme:** <https://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines> under Best-value medicines

**Health Products Regulatory Authority:** <http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medicines/special-topics/biosimilar-medicines>

**European Medicines Agency:** <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/biosimilar-medicines-overview#information-for-patients-and-healthcare-professionals-section>

Further information on osteoporosis, including the medicines that are used in its treatment, is available on the website of the **Irish Osteoporosis Society**: [www.irishosteoporosis.ie](http://www.irishosteoporosis.ie)