



---

## U.S. Pharmaceuticals

November 18, 2004

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Pfizer Inc would like to inform you of important updated safety information for Depo-Provera<sup>®</sup> Contraceptive Injection (medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension) indicated only for the prevention of pregnancy in women of child-bearing potential. As a result of postmarketing studies, one with adults and one with adolescents, we now have new clinical data regarding the use of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection and its associated effect on bone mineral density (BMD). The data suggest that women who use Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection may lose significant BMD.

Clinicians are advised to review carefully the Boxed Warning shown below, which has been added to the prescribing information.

**Women who use Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection may lose significant bone mineral density. Bone loss is greater with increasing duration of use and may not be completely reversible. It is unknown if use of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection during adolescence or early adulthood, a critical period of bone accretion, will reduce peak bone mass and increase the risk of osteoporotic fracture in later life.**

**Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection should be used as a long-term birth control method (eg, longer than 2 years) only if other birth control methods are inadequate (see WARNINGS).**

The **WARNINGS** section of the label also contains specific data regarding bone loss from the Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection studies. Key additional information in the **WARNINGS** section includes:

- Use of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection reduces serum estrogen levels and is associated with significant loss of BMD as bone metabolism accommodates to a lower estrogen level. This loss of BMD is of particular concern during adolescence and early adulthood, a critical period of bone accretion
- In both adults and adolescents, the decrease in BMD appears to be at least partially reversible after Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection is discontinued and ovarian estrogen production increases
- Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection should be used as a long-term birth control method (eg, longer than 2 years) only if other birth control methods are inadequate. BMD should be evaluated when a woman needs to continue to use Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection long term. In adolescents, interpretation of BMD results should take into account patient age and skeletal maturity
- Other birth control methods should be considered in the risk/benefit analysis for the use of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection in women with osteoporosis risk factors. Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection can pose an additional risk in patients with risk

*Please see enclosed full prescribing information for Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection.*

factors for osteoporosis (eg, metabolic bone disease, chronic alcohol and/or tobacco use, anorexia nervosa, strong family history of osteoporosis, or chronic use of drugs that can reduce bone mass, such as anticonvulsants or corticosteroids). Although there are no studies addressing whether or not calcium and vitamin D may lessen BMD loss in women using Depo-Provera® Contraceptive Injection (medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension), all patients should have adequate calcium and vitamin D intake

*See additional clinical information in the WARNINGS section.*

The **INDICATIONS AND USAGE** section has been updated to reflect the new warnings about BMD. It states that loss of BMD in women of all ages, and the impact on peak bone mass in adolescents, should be considered, along with the decrease in BMD that occurs during pregnancy and/or lactation, in the risk/benefit assessment for women who use Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection long term (**see WARNINGS**).

The **PRECAUTIONS, PEDIATRIC USE** section of the label has an additional cautionary statement about the use of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection during adolescence and early adulthood.

The **POSTMARKETING EXPERIENCE** section of the label includes information about reports of rare cases of osteoporosis including osteoporotic fractures reported postmarketing in patients taking Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection.

*Full prescribing information is enclosed, which also contains revised patient information relevant to BMD.*

We are committed to ensuring that Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection is used safely and effectively and to working in collaboration with you for the safety and well-being of all patients receiving Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection. Should you have any questions, please contact Pfizer **Medical Information at 1-800-438-1985, select option 6**. Medical Information is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. You may also instruct your patients to call the Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection patient support line at 1-866-554-3376 if they have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Urbanski, MD, PhD  
Medical Director  
U.S. Diversified Products  
Pfizer Inc

*Please see enclosed full prescribing information for Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection.*