

**Policy Category:**  
**CBA**  
**Who usually applies for funding?**  
**Not Applicable**

**DEXA scanning in primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility**

<b>Commissioning decision</b>	<b>The Integrated Care Board will provide funding for DEXA scanning in primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures for people who meet the criteria defined within this policy</b>
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**Policy Statement:**

**In women or men over 50 years, DEXA scans are commissioned where:**

**Primary prevention may include major pharmacological interventions;**

AND

The patient's absolute risk of having a fracture in the next 10yrs has been estimated using FRAX or an equivalent risk estimation tool;

AND

The estimated risk is equivalent or higher to that of having a prior fragility fracture at that age i.e. patients assessed as intermediate or high risk using FRAX.

**NB**

Patients assessed as low risk should be reassured that a DEXA scan is not necessary and advised on general measures to prevent osteoporotic fragility fractures.

Repeat or follow-up scans are not normally commissioned for assessing treatment success.

Treatment failure is indicated by fragility fracture occurring following preventive treatment. NICE guidance on changing therapies should be followed. In those cases where full reassessment is being undertaken for eligibility for teriparatide, repeat DEXA scans are commissioned. Repeat DEXA is not normally commissioned for other therapy changes.

In patients whose previous assessment did not lead to treatment and who now require reassessment to judge whether treatment thresholds are now met, fracture risk may be reassessed including DEXA scan provided the access criteria in this policy are still met and an interval of at least 3yrs has passed since their last DEXA scan.

This guidance does not apply to patients who have already had a fragility fracture (please refer to NICE guidance – TAG 160 and TAG 161).

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For further information please contact [GLICB.IFR@nhs.net](mailto:GLICB.IFR@nhs.net)

<b>Policy review date</b>	September 2024
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**Version Control:**

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Type of Change</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
2	Review date	Reviewed 21.6.18	Review date changed to June 2021
3	Review date	Reviewed 16.9.21	Review date change to September 2024