Author's response to reviews

Title: Treatment of Osteoporosis in an Older Home Care Population

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Dear Editorial Team:

We appreciate the prompt and thoughtful review of our paper. We have tried to revise the paper in accordance with the suggestions from the editorial team and the external reviewers. Our specific responses to the reviewers’ comments are as follows:

Tuan V. Nguyen
1. The objectives have been clarified (Background, last paragraph - page 3).
2. A comment regarding justification for sample size has been added (Methods, 1st paragraph - page 3). A reference is also provided for further details of the primary study on medication adherence.
3. We have elaborated on the potential impact of misclassification of fractures (i.e. traumatic versus fragility) on the internal validity of the results (Discussion, 2nd paragraph - page 5).
4. The low prevalence of osteoporosis may have been a result of utilization of self-report data and/or actual physician practice habits. This limitation has been added to the discussion (Discussion, 2nd paragraph - page 5).
5. In addition to the limitations above (3 and 4), we have discussed potential limitations due to the small sample size (Discussion, 3rd paragraph - page 6). Implications regarding further evaluation of factors associated with undertreatment (Discussion, 3rd paragraph - page 6) and physician education have also been discussed (Discussion, last paragraph - page 6).

Earl Bogoch
We have added some suggestions regarding how the problem of undertreatment may be addressed (#5 above). We have also included additional information on the extent of contact with health care professionals (Discussion, 1st paragraph - page 5).

1. To complete the discussion of other studies suggesting undertreatment, two references have been added (including the article suggested by Dr. Bogoch).
2. The 'Background' has been shortened and text clarified (Methods, 1st paragraph - page 3).
3. Risedronate was not available in Canada for osteoporosis therapy when these data were collected (April - June of 2000), and a check of our database confirm that this drug was not used by any of the participants in this study.

We hope these changes meet with your approval, and would be pleased to respond to any new questions arising from the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,
Shelly A. Vik
Colleen J. Maxwell
David A. Hanley