Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics of patients initiating raloxifene compared to those initiating bisphosphonates

Version: 2 Date: 10 November 2008

Reviewer: Suzanne Cadarette

Reviewer's report:

I commend authors for their efforts in responding to reviewer comments. I have a few outstanding questions that authors should be able to respond to without further review.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Since the purpose of the study is to compare women starting therapy, I question the relevance of requiring 6-months of plan enrolment following treatment initiation (would exclude, for example, women who die within 6-months after treatment initiation).
   - Please clarify the rationale for restricting the study to those with 6-month post treatment initiation.
   - Please also clarify # excluded due to plan enrolment based on 12-month pre-vs. 6-months post- treatment initiation in Table 1.

2. Please clarify why many of the covariates listed in Table 3 are not presented in the adjusted analyses (Table 4), e.g., cardiovascular disease, hormone deprivation.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'