

HEALTH ALERT!

Scientists Seek Help With New Osteoporosis Treatment


(NAPSA)—Investigators across the country are recruiting participants for a clinical trial program to study the effectiveness of a new *once yearly* treatment for osteoporosis called zoledronic acid.

Osteoporosis has reached epidemic proportions. One out of two American women and one of eight American men aged 50 and over will experience an osteoporosis-related bone fracture in their lifetime.

This bone-thinning disease now affects 10 million Americans. New, more convenient treatments are needed for this debilitating disease.

The trials, known as **HORIZON (Health Outcomes and Reduced Incidence with Zoledronic Acid ONce Yearly)**, are being conducted in 400 trial centers over four continents with approximately 11,000 patients.

The **HORIZON** trials are like no other studies ever conducted. This is the first program to study a once-yearly treatment for osteoporosis, and the first program to study the prevention of future fractures in patients who have already experienced an osteoporosis-related hip fracture. In addition, it is the first to study a single dose treatment

This is the first program to study a once-yearly treatment for osteoporosis 

given once for Paget's disease.

"Patients need new options that treat bone diseases like osteoporosis," said Meryl S. LeBoff, M.D., director of skeletal health and osteoporosis at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. "We urge women and men who have osteoporosis or Paget's disease to speak with their doctors about the condition and consider participating in one of the **HORIZON** clinical trials."

Researchers are seeking women between the ages of 65 and 89 who have osteoporosis, men and women aged 50 and over who have a history of a low-trauma hip fracture but could walk prior to the fracture, and men and women aged 30 years or older who have Paget's disease. If you match these criteria and are interested in volunteering for any of the **Horizon** studies, call 1-877-YHORIZON (1-877-946-7496) or visit the Web site at www.horizon.novartis.com for more information.