

## PRIMIS case study

Time period: 2021  
Themes: Quality Improvement, Research & Evaluation, Data Specifications & Validation  
Partners: Oxford AHSN, the University of Oxford  
Project: GRASP-Osteoporosis  
**Title: Initiative improving osteoporosis treatment in primary care in Oxford AHSN, supported by PRIMIS**

### Overview

A successful pilot scheme at eight GP practices in Oxfordshire, run by Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), has shown that medication adherence in patients at high risk of fragility fracture can be improved. This in turn will reduce the risk of fracture. Osteoporosis is a health condition that weakens bones, making them fragile and more likely to break. And it can be treated by taking bone strengthening medicines. But while one in two women and one in five men over the age of 50 will suffer a fragility fracture due to osteoporosis, around half of at-risk patients stop taking their medicines within the first year.

### Full case

The pilot scheme is a collaboration between the University of Oxford, PRIMIS (part of the University of Nottingham) and the Oxford AHSN with funding from Health Education England. By having regular discussions at their GP practice with a nurse or pharmacist, more at-risk patients have been encouraged to keep taking their medicines. By June 2022 nearly 130 of these reviews led to improvements in people taking their medication or having it changed. As a result, 6-7 fractures will be avoided over the next two years, saving the NHS and social care around £100,000.

Oxford AHSN is working with Medicines Optimisation teams across the AHSN region to see if the scheme can be rolled out to GP practices and, following the monitoring of outcomes and impacts, there is intent to roll-out more widely in the future with support from PRIMIS.

[This project has featured in Oxford AHSN's recent 'Our Priorities' booklet \(see page 27\).](#) The booklet also highlights the AHSN's many other projects.

[Oxford AHSN website](#)

