



HEALTHWELL  
FOUNDATION®

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**HealthWell Foundation Launches Fund for  
Patients with Bone Metastases**  
*Reduction in Costs Anticipated for Patients  
and U.S. Health Care System*

Gaithersburg, MD—The HealthWell Foundation®, a nonprofit organization providing financial assistance to underinsured patients facing a variety of chronic and life-altering diseases, is pleased to announce the launch of a new fund to support treatment for Bone Metastases. The fund will provide financial assistance to individuals burdened with expensive prescription medication copayments.

“Bone Metastases, the spread of cancer to the bone, are common in many cancers, and can cause devastating problems leading to pain, or even paralysis, if they are not treated effectively,” said Dr. Jeffrey Peppercorn, Chief Ethics Advisor for the HealthWell Foundation and a board-certified oncologist at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Peppercorn continued, “Fortunately, there are several excellent treatments that can control the spread of cancer within the bone. This fund will bridge a gap for many patients, allowing them access to much-needed therapies through financial assistance from the HealthWell Foundation.”

Mary P. Sundeen, President of the HealthWell Foundation, also commented on the new fund: “Treatment of bone complications more than doubles the total treatment costs for patients with bone metastases. HealthWell’s new fund should contribute to a reduction in the overall burden to the health care system, and to patients themselves, by avoiding some of the most common and costly complications through better treatment and management of cancer-related bone lesions.”

Application information for the Bone Metastases Fund, as well as information on making a financial donation to support this and other funds, is available at [www.HealthWellFoundation.org](http://www.HealthWellFoundation.org).

**About Bone Metastases**

Bone Metastases occurs when cancer that has developed in one area of the body, usually a vital organ, spreads to invade bone, or bones, in the skeleton. According to the American Cancer Society, most people who die of cancer have metastases in some part of their body. Common symptoms include severe bone pain, fractures, and numbness or weakness in the legs.

**About the HealthWell Foundation**

Since 2003, the HealthWell Foundation® has helped more than 100,000 underinsured patients with serious and chronic conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment. HealthWell is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, co-payments and deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other selected out-of-pocket health care costs. For more information, visit [www.HealthWellFoundation.org](http://www.HealthWellFoundation.org).

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