

14 December 2020

## SHIELDING ACTIONS REQUIRED BY 24 DECEMBER 2020

1. From today onwards, please review the **CKD5** tab of EScro. If there are any patients without a shielding date and are not receiving palliative care, **please return their CHI to [covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) marked CKD5.**
  2. **From Friday 18 December**, please review the **Down's syndrome** tab of EScro. If there are any patients do not yet have a recorded shielding date, **please return their CHI to [covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) marked Down's syndrome.**
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Dear colleagues,

### SHIELDING UPDATE: CKD5 & DOWN'S SYNDROME

Further to recent advice from the CMO, we have been working with renal services and learning disabilities teams to try to identify all patients with CKD5 and with Down's syndrome who should be added to the shielding register. The CMO letters are attached for your information.

The majority of patients in these categories will have been identified through this processes, with codes added to your practice systems. You can find the search results within the EScro tool which we wrote to you about earlier this year, during the initial searches for shielding. In this letter we are asking that you identify any missing CKD5 patients or people with Down's syndrome who may not have been picked up so far and would benefit from being added to the shielding register.

### CKD5 PATIENTS

We have already downloaded the CKD5 covid shielding codes from renal services into GP IT systems and so, for CKD5, we are only asking you to add those CKD5 patients who you believe should shield but do not yet have a shielding date in the search tool. You may already have the EScro tool on your desktop, but if not, you can download it here:

[http://www.escro.co.uk/escro\\_shielding/escro\\_shielding.htm](http://www.escro.co.uk/escro_shielding/escro_shielding.htm)

Please note that in some cases, for palliative reasons, some of the CKD5 patients that are identified without shielding dates may not be suitable for shielding. This is a clinical decision.

Having reviewed this subgroup, can you please forward any additional CKD5 shielding patients' names and CHI numbers to the email address [covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) by 24 December 2020.

## **PATIENTS WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME**

We hope that by Friday 18 December, similar lists of those living with Down's syndrome will have been added to the register from learning disabilities teams, and people with this diagnosis known to services will appear in GP IT systems with a shielding date. Therefore, if you have adult Down's syndrome patients without a shielding date who you believe should be shielding, please send their names and CHIs to [covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:covidshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) before 24 December 2020.

If you are submitting a patient's details for the shielding register, you can issue them with a letter (these are attached). However, if you do this, please advise them that it is likely that they will receive a further copy automatically from Scottish Government when they are added to the central register. Please note that there is a specific letter for those with Down's syndrome and their carers as an appendix within the CMO letter.

## **DEMENTIA**

The CMO's update letter also makes reference to those adults living with dementia. This is a complex group and there is no request for clinicians to prospectively search and add this group to the shielding register. However, when you are dealing with a patient with this diagnosis, please bear the shielding criteria in mind and consider a discussion with the patient and or their care givers about the benefits and harms of shielding.

Finally, I would like to thank all primary care staff for their unwavering support in responding to the covid challenge over the past year, and in particular your response to the ever-changing landscape of shielding. Colleagues have responded magnificently to the unforeseen and ever-changing challenges with hard work, compassion and good humour, and have sustained this attitude and response over a very prolonged period of time. On behalf of the organisation and the communities we serve, I am very grateful. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a more peaceful and predictable 2021.

Many thanks for your ongoing assistance with the shielding challenge. Please stay safe.

Kindest regards,



**John O'Dowd**

Clinical Director

On behalf of the NHSGGC COVID Shielding Group