10th March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Group 6 at-risk cohort for Covid-19 immunisation

Information of patients eligible for inclusion in group 6, ‘at-risk’ cohort was extracted from your GP IT systems in stages over a couple of weeks, with the final complete extract occurring between March 1st – 3rd. Where scheduling is being done centrally by Health Boards, some appointments will have already been arranged, and the remainder will be sent out over the next couple of weeks according to local arrangements.

# **Eligible Groups**

There were a few changes, made at the end of February, to the eligible criteria from the Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) Below is a summary of some key points that may help if you need to deal with queries –

* Asthma – patients are eligible if they haveeverhad an admission specifically for asthma **OR** if they are on inhalers (prescribed in the last year) and have required three courses or more of oral prednisolone in the last two years. We have heard of issues where the code for asthma admissions has been incorrectly entered in asthma reviews to indicate no admissions.
* Learning Disabilities – includes all Learning disabilities irrespective of severity. Note, people with Down’s Syndrome are not included in this extract as they will have been invited in Cohort 4 – Shielding.
* Gestational Diabetes (diagnosed in the last year) has been added to the criteria.
* Addison’s Disease has been added, these codes have been included with the Diabetes searches at present.
* Codes for Rheumatoid Arthritis and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus have been added to the immunosuppressive searches. These conditions are mentioned specifically by JCVI with respect to likelihood of requiring immunosuppressant medications. People not on immunosuppressant with these conditions will be included.
* New conditions of Venous Thromboembolic Disease, Peripheral Vascular Disease, Epilepsy and Severe Mental Health added to criteria.
* Pregnant women will be included if they have a relevant co-morbid condition. The leaflet they will receive with their scheduling letter asks them to contact their maternity service to discuss their particular circumstances and whether they should proceed with vaccination.
* BMI >40. This is based on the most recent BMI recording in your system. We are aware of a very small number of cases where the height has been entered with incorrect units, resulting in people being wrongly selected.

# **Audits available for General Practice**

Albasoft have now made available, on their EScro Vaccination Tool dashboard, listings of the patients included in the extract for all the at-risk group. This can be accessed from the icon on your desktop. It is possible when highlighting an individual, to see all their qualifying criteria.

These audits will initially reflect the extracted data, but over time may start to show some variations as your patient population changes and with changing diagnoses coding.

Vision has audits available to download from their website. Their latest is Version 8 published on 04/03/21. These have been built from the English specifications and reflects the latest changes to the JCVI criteria.

<http://help.visionhealth.co.uk/clinical%20audit/Content/Downloads/Imms%20and%20HP.htm#Coronavirus_Vaccination>

It is likely there will be slight differences in the numbers compared to the Scottish searches in the Albasoft EScro Vaccination Tool, due to slight variations in the code and search criteria.

There are no searches available within EMIS PCS for the Cohort 6 ‘at-risk’ group. Searches for EMIS Web have been developed locally within Scotland, which have not been formally accredited, but are aimed at closely matching the Albasoft searches. These will be circulated via the GMS Facilitators network when they are available. They will also show some slight variations in results due to the complexity and different mechanisms for building these searches.

# **Useful codes for Practices**

Both Vision and EMIS have created local codes for Covid-19 related areas. Because these are separate from the formal Read code thesaurus (although the Vision local codes look like Read codes), we’re aware these can sometimes be difficult to find within your systems. We have listed below some you may find helpful.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Term | EMIS | VISION |
| Acute Disease caused by COVID-19 | ^ESCT1348646 | A7954 |
| Ongoing symptomatic COVID-19 | ^ESCT1348648 | A7955 |
| Post-COVID-19 syndrome | ^ESCT1348645 | AyuJC |
| Referral to post-COVID assessment clinic | ^ESCT1348625 | 8HTE6 |
| Pneumonia due to SARS-CoV-2 | ^ESCT1299065 | H204. |
| High priority for SARS-CoV-2 vaccination | ^ESCT1299080 | 2J68. |
| Adverse reaction SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | ^ESCT1348319 | TJK62 |
| Allergy to SARS-CoV-2 vaccine | ^ESCT1348327 | 14L51 |
| DNA 2019-nCoV (novel coronavirus) vaccination | ^ESCT1299083 | 9Niq. |
| DNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine first dose | ^ESCT1348349 | 9Niq1 |
| DNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine second dose | ^ESCT1348351 | 9Niq2 |
| SARS-CoV-2 immunisation course declined | ^ESCT1348345 | 8IAI1 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vac first dose declined | ^ESCT1348329 | 8IAI2 |
| SARS-CoV-2 vac second dose declined | ^ESCT1348335 | 8IAI3 |
| 2019-nCoV (novel coronavirus) vaccination contraindicated | ^ESCT1299089 | 8I23R |

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