

FVCV COVID Vaccination Programme – Severely Immunosuppressed Cohort

Primary Care Update – 19 October 2021

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document provides a programme update regarding people who are included in the severely immunosuppressed (SIS) cohort and are eligible for a 3rd primary dose of COVID vaccine. The JCVI advice on this offer was provided on 1 September and articulated in the CMO letter *SGHD-CMO (2021)27* on 21 September.
- 1.2 It is being provided to General Practice for information as we are aware that patients are discussing with Practices in terms of eligibility or the process to be vaccinated, and so is to enable practices to provide advice to patients.
- 1.3 The 3rd primary dose of the COVID vaccine is being offered to people aged 12 and over who had a severely weakened immune system when they had their initial two doses of COVID vaccine. The 3rd primary dose for people with a severely weakened immune system is **not** a booster dose. The 3rd primary dose is being given to help improve any protection that the person may have built up from their first 2 doses. It is possible that they may not have responded as well as others. The 3rd primary dose should be given at least 8 weeks after the second dose, but the timing will depend on any treatment the person may be having.
- 1.4 Advice on a possible booster dose (following the 3rd primary dose) for people in the SIS cohort has not yet been announced by the JCVI.

2 Information Resources

- 2.1 The people in this cohort who are being invited via the national scheduling system for a 3rd primary dose COVID vaccination are invited via a specific appointment letter, which also explains that flu vaccination may also be offered at the same appointment. A specific leaflet for the SIS cohort is [available](#) and will be included with the appointment letter. Some Boards are appointing locally i.e. not using the national scheduling system.
- 2.2 NHS Inform has also been updated with information for the SIS cohort and is available [here](#). The rescheduling user guide on NHS Inform has also been updated to include the 3rd primary dose.

We are grateful if the above information is circulated to relevant Primary Care staff should any enquiries be received from patients in Primary Care.

3 For Information - Identification of Cohort

3.1 The identification of this cohort is via several means:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extract of central files:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sections 1,2 and 5 of the previously named Shielding list – now Highest Risk list. These are people who have had transplants, those with specific cancers and immunosuppression➤ SNBTS Transplant List information➤ Chemo Care list	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialist clinician supplementation and review of the above lists to add any missing patients not already included and who meet the JCVI definition; and, if required, to provide guidance on the optimal timing of vaccination in relation to treatment cycles.• NHS Boards to contact any local/regional Treatment Centres (e.g. HIV) to identify those that fall within the scope of the Severely Immunosuppressed definition as defined in the above CMO letter.
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Status update

The first centrally collated file which was made available to Boards has been appointed to and the remaining centrally collated files are in the process of being appointed. Boards have been asked to have in place pathways to enable any additional locally identified patients to be offered vaccination.

Recording of 3rd Primary Dose of Vaccine Administration

Vaccinators are required to record the 3rd primary dose for this group of patients on the Vaccine Management Tool (VMT) utilising the section for the 3rd primary dose. The correct recording of 3rd primary dose in VMT will allow for any future call / recall should a booster dose be announced for the SIS cohort. Data from VMT should then feedback to GP IT systems.

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