

11 January 2021

SHIELDING ACTIONS REQUIRED BY 29 JANUARY 2021

1. Please ensure that the list of patients in your practice who require to shield continues to be kept up to date. From today onwards, please re-run the EScro search application to help the practice identify new patients who might need to shield. This request will also help to support the prioritisation of covid vaccination for the clinically vulnerable.
 2. Please return the names of those to be added to the register, or removed, to COVIDShielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk by the close of business on Friday 29 January, 2021 and on an ongoing basis when there are new additions or removals.
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Dear colleagues,

SHIELDING: UPDATE OF REGISTER

Further to recent communication from Scottish Government I'm writing to ask practices to continue to keep their shielding registers up to date. This can be done by accessing the EScro application and running the shielding searches in order to identify those in each category who may need to be added to the shielding register. The attached Scottish Government communication includes a reminder of the categories of patients who should shield.

Can I ask you to access the EScro application using this link:

http://www.escro.co.uk/escro_shielding/escro_shielding.htm and review those who do not have a shielding date recorded in the reports. Please remember that you are only looking at those without an existing shielding date, and in some cases these patients may well have been reviewed before. Unfortunately, the results are not sorted to allow the user to see those who have been most recently added, which makes this a complex endeavour. You may have copies of previous outputs which would help you to identify newly eligible patients for review.

As always, please bear in mind that shielding is a complex process that carries benefits and harms, and so discussion with those who meet the criteria should lead to a dialogue to determine who might shield. If you decide to add someone to the shielding register, please issue the attached letter, and forward their name and CHI to COVIDShielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk. Please let new additions know that they will receive a second centrally generated letter in due course.

We are also aware that some patients and staff are beginning to ask how being vaccinated will affect advice to shield, particularly in relation to work. Advice on this is included in the information which has been sent to patients at <https://www.mygov.scot/support-shielding/> and states that people should continue to follow all advice for those on the shielding list, even if they have had a coronavirus vaccination. This includes the advice about work.

I appreciate that this is a burden and that clinical demand is currently high. Many thanks for your ongoing assistance with the shielding challenge.

Please stay safe.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Dowd', with a horizontal line underneath.

John O'Dowd

Clinical Director

On behalf of the NHSGGC COVID Shielding Group

Enc New additions - shielding letter

Additions to shielding list – current process