



Medical Directors
NHS Board Shielding Leads
Primary Care

23 June 2020

For immediate cascade to Hospital Clinicians, Primary Care and Health Board shielding coordinating team

REMOVAL OF PATIENTS FROM THE SHIELDING LIST

Dear colleague,

Since the start of the pandemic, you and your teams have devoted a great deal of time and effort identifying and advising patients who may be at very high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 ensuring they are added to the Shielding List. I am hugely appreciative of your invaluable work in continuing to support these patients and helping to keep them safe and well.

The NHS continues to maintain the shielding list using the existing criteria and processes. Clinicians continue to identify those who may be at very high risk and these patients receive a letter advising them to take extra precautions and providing information on the support available.

At the same time clinicians may remove people from the list where they believe someone has been identified in error or if they think that someone is no longer clinically at very high risk.

This should only ever be done in consultation with the patient and other clinicians where appropriate. **It is very important that clinicians only request that a person is removed from the shielding list following a discussion with that person.**

Where removal is agreed with the patient, clinicians should let the Health Board coordinating team know as they will inform Public Health Scotland (PHS) who will send the patient a letter confirming the removal.

I would ask the Boards to ensure that:

- conversation with the patient has happened before the removal details are communicated to PHS;
- the list of all removal requests (whether made by primary care or by hospital clinicians) is sent to GP practices at the same time it is sent to PHS (this will assist GP practices in directing any patient queries to the appropriate secondary care clinician where appropriate).

Thank you for your continuing commitment and considerable effort to support this vulnerable group of people during this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregor Smith', written in a cursive style.

DR GREGOR SMITH

INTERIM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER