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To: NHS renal units

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

28 April 2020

Dear colleague,

Identifying renal dialysis patients who need to shield

On 23 April the Chief Medical Officers confirmed that patients receiving renal dialysis have been added to the list of conditions that indicate someone is clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus. Recent data from the UK Renal Registry suggests increased mortality from COVID-19 compared to the general population.

The government is therefore advising all dialysis patients (including children) to stay at home and avoid all face-to-face contact, or shield, until at least 30 June, wherever this is clinically safe and appropriate. Further information about shielding beyond 30 June will be published in due course.

You may already have contacted your renal dialysis patients to inform them that they should be shielding, sent them a letter and added their details to your trust's daily return to NHS Digital. However, if you have not done so, please complete this task for all people receiving renal dialysis now.

The decision to shield is a personal one. In many circumstances, renal dialysis patients will need to continue attending hospital or a clinic to receive dialysis. It is therefore important that you not only inform your patients with a letter, but also speak to them to help them decide what actions are appropriate for them.

Please ensure that patients are aware of the need to continue life-saving treatment and set out how you will ensure their safety when they must attend hospital.

Patients who are confirmed to be clinically extremely vulnerable will be able to access the government's support offer, ensuring they have access to food, medicines and basic supplies. Patients can register at www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable. There may be a delay between patients registering on the website and support being delivered.

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Please can you:

- Identify any renal dialysis patients who should be added to the clinically highest risk register and advised to shield. **Please ensure they are sent a copy of the standard letter with shielding advice, include information about their ongoing treatment and inform their GP.**
- Ensure that care plans for all patients considered clinically highest risk have been reviewed and changes communicated to patients wherever necessary.
- **Provide a list of these patients (ie renal dialysis patients at highest clinical risk) to your trust's daily [Strategic Data Collection Service \(SDCS\)](#) submission to NHS Digital. Please do this before 5pm on 30 April.**

The daily SDCS submission will be submitted by the same person who submits the daily SITREP report from your trust.

The submission can be done daily between 8am and 5pm. Please note that this service can only accept one submission from each trust per day. A template has been provided for this submission. If you have questions on this process, or you are unclear about who can submit for your trust, please contact emergency.collections@nhs.net.

A set of frequently asked questions on this process can be found here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/20200403-Clinician-FAQs-v_FINAL.pdf

Guidance on the submission process is published by NHS Digital: <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/spl-guidance-for-hospitals>. If you have any questions, please contact splquery@nhs.net.

Thank you very much for your support.



**Professor Stephen Powis
National Medical Director
NHS England and NHS Improvement**

Annex 1: List of highest clinical risk conditions from CMO

1. Solid organ transplant recipients
2. People with specific cancers
 - People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy.
 - People with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy.
 - People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment.
 - People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer.
 - People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors.
 - People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last six months, **or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs.**
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD. The criteria used to identify severe asthma and COPD can be found here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/methodology/medicines-data>
4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection. The relevant immunosuppression therapies are listed here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/methodology/annexes#annex-f-bnf-8-2-drugs-affecting-the-immune-response->
6. People who are pregnant with significant congenital heart disease.