

Covid vaccines for cancer patients

1 General messages

- The Government announced on Monday 18 January that the Covid-19 vaccination programme will be extended to people in JCVI [priority group 4](#). Priority group 4 includes people who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) and will include people having active cancer treatment as well as many in follow-up.
- All other cancer patients such as those treated a long time previously and who were treated surgically will be covered by priority group 6.
- Clinically urgent cancer treatment should not be delayed by the vaccination.
- Being vaccinated is not a requirement for having chemo or radiotherapy.
- No safety concerns around any cancer patients receiving the vaccine.

2 Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy patients

2.1 Barts Health

Barts cancer centre clinical teams will commence contacting patients who will be starting treatment or on active treatment to book them in for vaccinations at their hospital sites. Where vaccination capacity is available on the day, they are offering walk-in appointments (for cancer patients only).

Patients are being booked into vaccination slots to coincide with their next hospital visit to minimise travel. There are no exclusions regarding suggested timings in relation to systemic anti-cancer therapy.

2.1.1 Exclusions for Haemato-oncology patients*

Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant recipient within the last 3 months

Autologous Stem Cell Transplant recipient within the last 3 months

*Note there are no safety concerns if these patients inadvertently receive the CV-19 vaccine, they are excluded due to efficacy of vaccine during this period post transplant.

2.2 BHRUT

BHRUT already offering the vaccine to chemo and radiotherapy patients.

Two vaccination sites are open, one at Queen's Hospital and one at King George.

3 Cancer surgical patients

- People whose level of risk is about to increase – such as those waiting for planned cancer surgery – may also be offered the vaccine alongside the CEV group. Hospital clinicians may advise their patients that they should be vaccinated - ideally at least two weeks before they start treatment - however decisions will always be taken based on the case of the individual patient, taking into account their current health, their likelihood of exposure to the virus and the risk to their health from COVID-19.
- Process for vaccinating this cohort of patients is being undertaken by each individual provider as per the individual patient's clinical pathway and risk level.

4 Primary care

- Regarding Covid vaccinations of patients with cancer, the Gateway C webinar was helpful and highlighted that we should change our consent procedure slightly to clarify that although you may have a mild fever in response to the covid vaccine; for those on SACT /chemotherapy we should advise that they contact their nurse along the usual neutropenic sepsis protocol even within the few days post vaccination.

5 Further information

GatewayC is a useful, free cancer resource and anyone in primary care can register for it. Registration is quick and simple: visit <https://www.gatewayc.org.uk/> and click on the register button on the home page.

The GatewayC webinar on Covid-19 vaccine for cancer patients is available here (you will need to register first with GatewayC):
<https://courses.gatewayc.org.uk/course/view.php?id=86>

The link to the East London Health and Care Partnership FAQs on the vaccine is here: <https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/ourplans/covid-19-vaccine-faqs.htm>