

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PATIENTS**

### **PATIENTS WHO SHOULD BE SHIELDING**

#### **(THOSE AT HIGHEST RISK)**



People identified as being in these groups are to be sent a letter with advice on how to protect themselves and access the care and treatment they need during this time. This involves strict social isolation with no contact from the outside beyond that absolutely necessary, for a period of at least 12 weeks; a move which will significantly impact quality of life, increase social isolation, and will not be without its own attendant physical and mental health risks.

In Scotland, this equates to around 200,000 patients, across 940 practices. The group includes:

**1. Solid organ transplant recipients.**

**2. People with specific cancers:**

- People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer.
- 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.**

**4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell disease).**

**5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.**

This includes all patients on the following medications:

- Azathioprine
- Mycophenolate (both types)
- Cyclosporin
- Sirolimus
- Tacrolimus
- And/or those identified to you by Secondary Care colleagues.

**6. People who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.**

A copy of the letter that you will receive from Scottish Government is available on our webpage under Coronavirus 19 (bottom of the page).

Website address is: [www.berviemedical.com](http://www.berviemedical.com)

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