

Identifying and contacting Immunosuppressed individuals using PRIMIS

NHS England and NHS Improvement



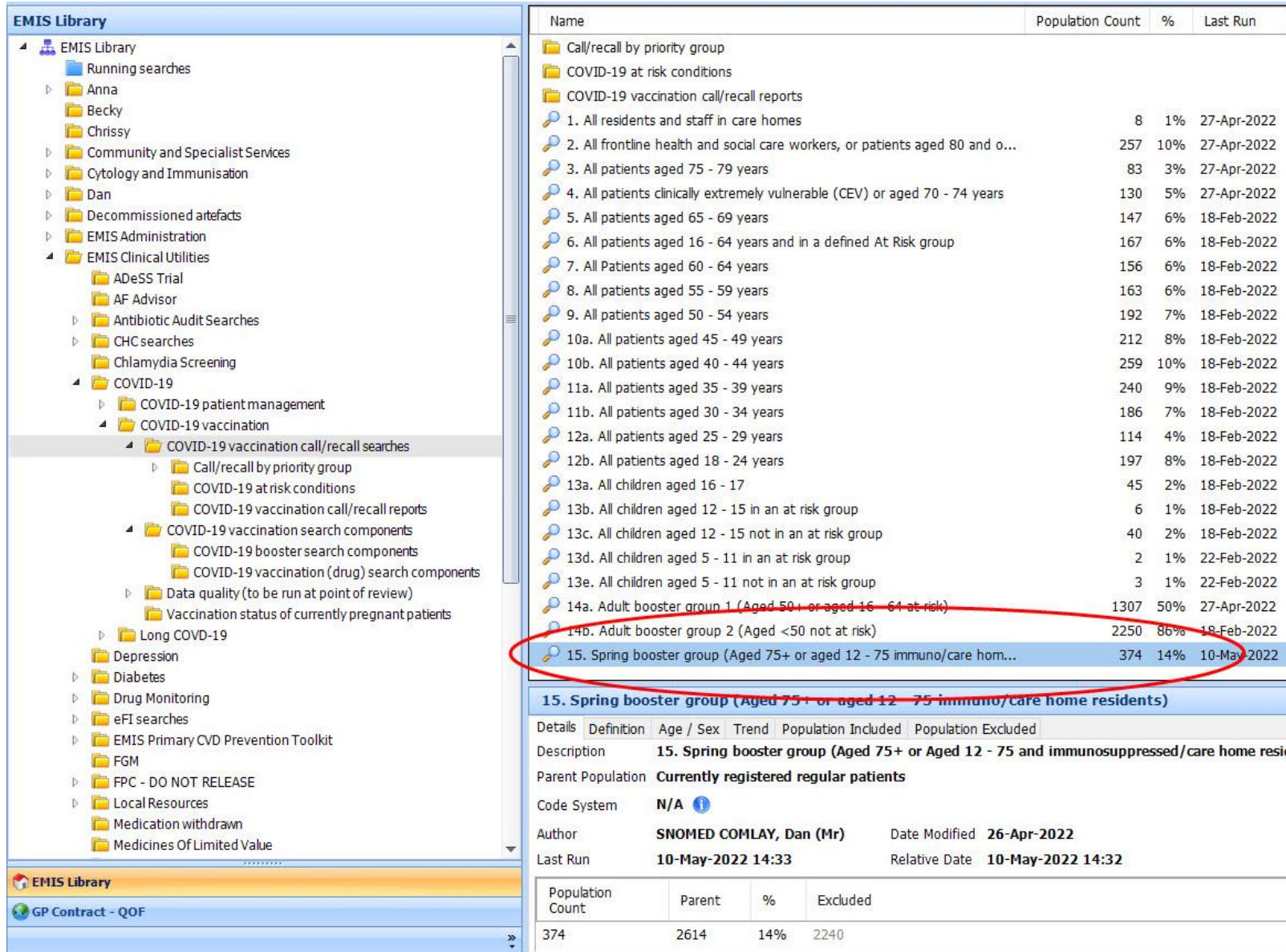
Immunosuppression vaccine background

- Identifying **patients with severe immunosuppression (SiS)** within health records and maintaining that identification has always presented as a **challenge**.
- During identification of SiS adult patients for 3rd dose vaccinations, there were difficulties in **matching SiS JCVI definitions** with the **coding** held in GP health records which did not directly align.
- It was noted at the time that this would result in an imperfect list with **under/over identification** of the SiS cohort with accuracy estimated at approximately 70% of the entire cohort. Due to the urgent timing issues the decision was taken to proceed at pace, and continue to **develop solutions** mitigating some of the known clinical risks.
- In October 2021, NHS Digital conducted a **centralised search** using nationally-collected GP system records, hospital and prescribing data to produce a list which was then disseminated to GPs via the Covid GP Dashboard. This was subsequently known as the **3rd dose list** and the methodology has been published.
- This centralised cohort list has now been **refreshed**, and GPs will be able to access the updated list via the **Covid GP Dashboard** on the 17th June.
- In December 2021, JCVI advised that severely immunosuppressed children **aged 5-11** should be offered a **third primary dose**,
- In February 2022, JCVI recommended that immunosuppressed individuals **aged 12 and over** should receive a **booster dose** 3-6 months after their last dose

In order to reach the remaining portion of the I/S cohort, we will be **asking GPs to carry out local searches** utilising the PRIMIS search function held within GPIT systems

PRIMIS Search function

- The **PRIMIS search function** is available through all 3 GPIT systems (EMIS, TPP & Vision) and has now been updated to **enable local searches** and identification of immunosuppressed individuals including those eligible for spring boosters.
- The search is the same for Flu and Shingles and is **more permissive** in its alignment with JCVI definitions, enabling GPs to locally identify a larger Immunosuppressed cohort of approximately **1.29 million** (this will contain a significant number of the 550k SiS cohort, they will not all be additional).
- This is a **non-exhaustive list** and due to coding and challenges of identifying a complex cohort of patients there may be additional eligible individuals not listed identified by the practice. Relevant Green Book extracts to identify these individuals are included at [Annex A](#).
- We are asking all GPs to conduct the PRIMIS Immunosuppressed searches as soon as possible, followed by an immediate call/recall exercise to **contact eligible individuals for vaccination**. GPs not taking part in the vaccination programme are asked to conduct searches and **provide that information with systems** to arrange call/recall.
- The PRIMIS search is only able to be **conducted locally** as there is no central mechanism to identify this cohort through these means.
- **Guidance** on carrying out these searches including next steps and assurance will be shared via the **primary care bulletin** and added to the **NHS Futures site** for easy access.
- The **Primary Care bulletin** is scheduled for the week comm 19th June.



The screenshot shows the EMIS Library interface. On the left is a tree view of folders, including 'EMIS Library', 'Running searches', and 'COVID-19 vaccination call/recall searches'. The main area displays a list of search items with columns for Name, Population Count, %, and Last Run. Item 15, '15. Spring booster group (Aged 75+ or aged 12 - 75 immuno/care hom...', is highlighted with a red circle. Below the list, a detailed view for item 15 is shown, including a table with Population Count, Parent, %, and Excluded columns.

Name	Population Count	%	Last Run
Call/recall by priority group			
COVID-19 at risk conditions			
COVID-19 vaccination call/recall reports			
1. All residents and staff in care homes	8	1%	27-Apr-2022
2. All frontline health and social care workers, or patients aged 80 and o...	257	10%	27-Apr-2022
3. All patients aged 75 - 79 years	83	3%	27-Apr-2022
4. All patients clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) or aged 70 - 74 years	130	5%	27-Apr-2022
5. All patients aged 65 - 69 years	147	6%	18-Feb-2022
6. All patients aged 16 - 64 years and in a defined At Risk group	167	6%	18-Feb-2022
7. All Patients aged 60 - 64 years	156	6%	18-Feb-2022
8. All patients aged 55 - 59 years	163	6%	18-Feb-2022
9. All patients aged 50 - 54 years	192	7%	18-Feb-2022
10a. All patients aged 45 - 49 years	212	8%	18-Feb-2022
10b. All patients aged 40 - 44 years	259	10%	18-Feb-2022
11a. All patients aged 35 - 39 years	240	9%	18-Feb-2022
11b. All patients aged 30 - 34 years	186	7%	18-Feb-2022
12a. All patients aged 25 - 29 years	114	4%	18-Feb-2022
12b. All patients aged 18 - 24 years	197	8%	18-Feb-2022
13a. All children aged 16 - 17	45	2%	18-Feb-2022
13b. All children aged 12 - 15 in an at risk group	6	1%	18-Feb-2022
13c. All children aged 12 - 15 not in an at risk group	40	2%	18-Feb-2022
13d. All children aged 5 - 11 in an at risk group	2	1%	22-Feb-2022
13e. All children aged 5 - 11 not in an at risk group	3	1%	22-Feb-2022
14a. Adult booster group 1 (Aged 50+ or aged 16 - 64 at risk)	1307	50%	27-Apr-2022
14b. Adult booster group 2 (Aged <50 not at risk)	2250	86%	18-Feb-2022
15. Spring booster group (Aged 75+ or aged 12 - 75 immuno/care hom...	374	14%	10-May-2022

15. Spring booster group (Aged 75+ or aged 12 - 75 immuno/care home residents)			
Details	Definition	Age / Sex	Trend
Description	15. Spring booster group (Aged 75+ or Aged 12 - 75 and immunosuppressed/care home resi		
Parent Population	Currently registered regular patients		
Code System	N/A		
Author	SNOMED COMLAY, Dan (Mr)	Date Modified	26-Apr-2022
Last Run	10-May-2022 14:33	Relative Date	10-May-2022 14:32

Population Count	Parent	%	Excluded
374	2614	14%	2240

1. Using the EMIS GPIT System*, the PRIMIS search is located in the **EMIS Library folder** (see image).
2. *EMIS Library\EMIS Clinical Utilities\Covid-19 vaccination call/recall searches\15. Spring booster group (Aged 75+ or aged 12-75 immuno/care home*
3. The search population list can be found in the bottom right tab

Patient Appointments Pathway Reporting Audit Setup Links Dispensing Clinical Tools Workflow User System Help TPP

Search Task Discard Save Record Details Next Acute Repeat M Refer L... Resume Note

New Join Copy Import Export Excluded Patients Report Queue Upload Refresh

All Reports (60291)

- Waiting
- Completed
- Search reports...
- Favourites
- By Owner
 - My Reports (32)
 - Local Reports (9450)
 - DiabetesUK (19)
 - Training PCT (34)
 - System Wide (50788)**
 - 6 in 1 Vaccinations 2021 to 2022 (125)
 - 6 in 1 Vaccinations 2022 to 2025 (123)
 - Automatic immunisation messaging (1)
 - COPI (2)
 - COVID (2)
 - COVID vaccine (2)
 - COVID19 At Risk (503)
 - COVID19 At Risk Patients v3 (330)
 - COVID19 At Risk Patients v4 (256)
 - COVID19 Vaccination (7)
 - COVID19 immunisation programme (138)**
 - Joins (105)
 - COVID19 nMAB eligibility (1)
 - CVD Prevent 2019 to 2020 (588)
 - CVD Prevent 2020 to 2021 (714)
 - CVD Prevent 2021 to 2022 (714)
 - Clinical (1)
 - Covid 19 (7)
 - Covid Surveillance (42)
 - DH COVID19 Vaccination Uptake ATRISK 2020 to 21 (89)
 - DH COVID19 Vaccination Uptake ETH GEN PREG 2020 21
 - DH Childhood Flu 2018 to 2019 (281)
 - DH Childhood Flu 2019 to 2020 (320)
 - DH Childhood Flu 2020 to 2021 (338)
 - DH Childhood Flu 2021 to 2022 (553)
 - DH DTaP/PIV/Hib HebB At Risk HepB Early MMR 20 21 (98)
 - DH DTaP/PIV/Hib HebB At Risk HepB Early MMR 21 22 (13)
 - DH DTaP/PIV/Hib and Heb B At Risk Hep B Early MMR (109)
 - DH Flu Return 2018 to 2019 (363)
 - DH Flu Return 2019 to 2020 (407)
 - DH Flu Return 2020 to 2021 (629)
 - DH Flu Return 2021 to 2022 (828)
 - DH MMR Annual Uptake 2020 to 2021 (109)
 - DH MMR Annual Uptake Data Collection 2018 to 2019 (10)
 - DH MMR Annual Uptake Data Collection 2019 to 2020 (10)

COVID19 immunisation programme

OLAP 3: ENABLED - Most recent RepSys build completed at 27 May 2022 08:53.

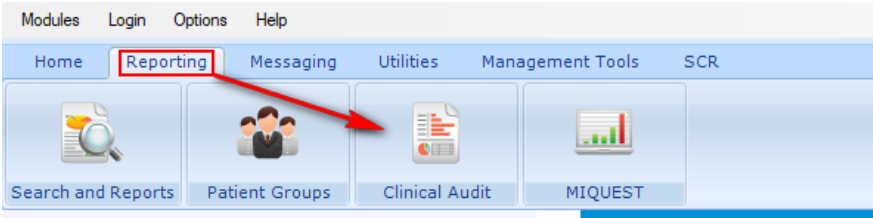
Name	Count	%	Last Run	Flags
Patients in ASTRXM1_COD AND ASTRXM2_COD				
Patients under 16		42 0.5 %	08 Mar 2021 16:42	
Patients under 18				
Patients who had AstraZeneca vaccination part 1				
Patients who had AstraZeneca vaccination part 2				
Patients who had AstraZeneca vaccination part 2 but not part 1				
Patients who had Pfizer vaccination part 1				
Patients who had Pfizer vaccination part 2				
Patients who had Pfizer vaccination part 2 but not part 1				
Patients who need AstraZeneca vaccination part 2				
Patients who need Pfizer vaccination part 2				
Patients with AST_COD AND (ASTRXM1 AND ASTRXM2)				
POBJEC_COD	0	0.0 %	06 Sep 2021 16:38	
POBJEC_DAT	0	0.0 %	06 Sep 2021 16:38	
POBJECW_COD	0	0.0 %	06 Sep 2021 16:38	
POBJECW_DAT	0	0.0 %	06 Sep 2021 16:38	
PREG_COD (in the last 37 weeks)	1	0.0 %	08 Mar 2021 16:42	
PREGDEL_COD (in the last 37 weeks)				
PREGDEL_DAT > PREG_DAT (in the last 37 weeks)				
Pregnant women				
Pregnant women or patients under 16				
Pregnant women or patients under 18				
RESIDE_COD	46	0.5 %	11 May 2022 16:33	
RESP_COV_COD	71	0.8 %	25 Jan 2022 09:08	
RESP_COV_DAT				
RESP_GROUP	72	0.8 %	25 Jan 2022 09:08	
RESP_ORGROUP				
SEV_MENTAL_COD				
SEV_MENTAL_DAT				
SEV_OBESITY	49	0.6 %	25 Jan 2022 09:08	
SEV_OBESITY (codes)				
SEV_OBESITY after BMI_DAT				
SEV_OBESITY_DAT > BMI_DAT				
Shielded patients - high risk who more recent moderate or low risk	1	0.0 %	08 Mar 2021 16:42	
SPLN_COV_COD				
SPLN_COV_DAT	4	0.0 %	25 Jan 2022 09:08	
Wave Child Age 12-15 with clinical risk (PRIMIS v1.4.3) and not vaccinated				
Wave Child Age 12-17 (PRIMIS v1.4.3)				
Wave Child Age 12-17 (PRIMIS v1.4.3) and not vaccinated				
Wave Child Age 16-17	21	0.2 %	11 Aug 2021 17:11	
Wave Child Age 16-17 (ALL) (PRIMIS v1.4.3) and not vaccinated				
Wave Child Age 5-15 with clinical risks (PRIMIS v1.5)	9	0.1 %	25 Jan 2022 09:08	
Wave Child Age 5-15 with clinical risks (PRIMIS v1.5) and not dissented from secondary use of GP patient identifiable data				
Wave Spring Booster Group (Aged 75+ or immunosuppressed/care home residents aged 12+)				

138 Reports

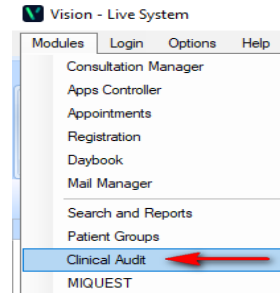
Search features

- Using the TPP GPIT System*, the PRIMIS search is located in the **All Reports** folder (see image).
- All Reports\System Wide\Covid-19 immunisation programme\Wave Spring Booster Group (Aged 75+ or immunosuppressed/care home residents aged 12+)*

VISION - Live System



Step 1 a.
From the main Vision screen*, select the **Reporting** tab, and then **Clinical Audit**:



Step 1 b.
Or from the **Modules** drop down menu select **Clinical Audit** instead:

Immunisations and Health Protection (inc PHE, HPS)

Coronavirus Vaccination

[Coronavirus Vaccination Monitoring \[Version 34, 23/05/2022\]](#) ←
[COVID-19 Gender and Ethnicity Reporting 2020-21 \[Version 12, 10/05/2022\]](#)
[COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake \(GP Patients\) 2020-21 \[Version 13, 10/05/2022\]](#)

Childhood Immunisations

(Please note that Version 34 dated 23/05/2022 **must** be installed to see the split out information).

Step 2.

The results for **Clinical Audit** are generated overnight via a timed process, so once the module has been opened, you need to locate this particular audit to view the latest results:

1602	16.99%	Spring Booster: All patients aged 75y and over, or aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system or, residents in a care home for older adults
1217	75.97%	Cohort break-down: All patients aged 75y and over
0	0.00%	All patients aged 75y and over who HAVE received a Spring Booster
0	0.00%	All patients aged 75y and over who have NOT received a Spring Booster yet (only eligible if had 1st Booster)
405	25.28%	Cohort break-down: All patients aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system
0	0.00%	All patients aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system who HAVE received a Spring Booster
1	0.25%	All patients aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system who have NOT received a Spring Booster yet (only eligible if had 1st Booster)
20	1.25%	Cohort break-down: All patients who are residents in a care home for older adults
0	0.00%	All patients who are residents in a care home for older adults who HAVE received a Spring Booster
0	0.00%	All patients who are residents in a care home for older adults who have NOT received a Spring Booster yet (only eligible if had 1st Booster)
1	0.06%	Eligible patients who received a 1st Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccination more than 91 days ago (and no 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose given - now eligible for vaccination)
0	0.00%	Eligible patients who received a 1st Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccination more than 91 days ago and has NOT declined a Booster/Maintenance dose
0	0.00%	Eligible patients who received a 1st Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccination more than 91 days ago and has declined a Booster/Maintenance dose
0	0.00%	Eligible patients who received a 1st Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccination more than 91 days ago and had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose
1	0.06%	Eligible patients who received a 1st Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccination more than 91 days ago and NOT had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose (excludes those who declined it)
0	0.00%	All Patients aged 75y and over who have NOT had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose (excludes those who declined it)
1	100.00%	All patients aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system who have NOT had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose (excludes those who declined it)
0	0.00%	All patients who are residents in a care home for older adults who have NOT had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose (excludes those who declined it)

Step 3.

Navigate through **Clinical Audit**, select the *Spring booster (All patients aged 75y and over, or aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system or, residents in a care home for older adults)* report.

1	100.00%	All patients aged 12y and over with a weakened immune system who have NOT had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose (excludes those who declined it)
0	0.00%	All patients who are residents in a care home for older adults who have NOT had an invitation for 2nd Booster/Maintenance dose (excludes those who declined it)
0	0.00%	Eligible patients who received a 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccination, but no 1st dose (data quality check)

May 2022 | Age Sex | Prevalence | Incidence | GP Analysis | Generate | Audit Manager | QOF Reporting
 Jaquetta Aaron | 15/12/1978 | 943 541 3706

Step 4.

Clicking on any given line will automatically display the list of patient(s) in the lower left hand pane, for example (not a real patient):

After the **PRIMIS search** has been completed, Practices should remove the following individuals from the list before beginning call/recall:

- **All adults aged 75 and over**, and
- **Residents in a care setting** (older adults)

Where they have not already done so, practices should now contact individuals identified via the PRIMIS search function or local searches of their registered list, to make an **offer of a spring booster by 27 June** utilising the template letter at Annex B. As per JCVI advice, the spring booster dose should be offered provided there is at least **3 months from the previous dose**.

Practices that are not delivering the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service should **share a list of eligible patients**, based on those identified via the GP PRIMIS and local searches, with their local commissioner (CCG) **by 23 June** so alternative provision can be made. This request is necessary for the reasons of public interest.

Additionally, the current immunosuppressed cohort list held in the **COVID-19 GP Dashboard** has now been **refreshed** (17 June) and includes an updated cohort list for adult (aged 12+) spring booster immunosuppressed.

Assurance Process

- CCGs will be asked to **provide assurance** that their PCNs have completed these actions, and will be required to complete an **assurance return** to capture a national view on completeness of the above actions.
- This will be distributed via NVOC cascade during **w/c 27 June**.

Annex A: Relevant Green Book extracts for eligible immunosuppressed patients

Table 3: Clinical and other risk groups for individuals aged 16 years and over eligible for COVID-19 immunisation.

<p>Immunosuppression</p>	<p>Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, patients undergoing radical radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. IRAK-4, NEMO, complement disorder, SCID).</p> <p>Individuals who are receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy including, but not limited to, anti-TNF, alemtuzumab, ofatumumab, rituximab, patients receiving protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors, and individuals treated with steroid sparing agents such as cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil.</p> <p>Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day for adults.</p> <p>Anyone with a history of haematological malignancy, including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma.</p> <p>Those who require long term immunosuppressive treatment for conditions including, but not limited to, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, scleroderma and psoriasis.</p> <p>Some immunosuppressed patients may have a suboptimal immunological response to the vaccine (see Immunosuppression and HIV).</p>
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Table 4: Clinical and other risk groups for children and young people aged 5-15 years

<p>Immunosuppression</p>	<p>Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• those undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients• genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. deficiencies of IRAK-4 or NEMO, complement disorder, SCID)• those with haematological malignancy, including leukaemia and lymphoma• those receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy• those treated with or likely to be treated with high or moderate dose corticosteroids• those receiving any dose of non-biological oral immune modulating drugs e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine or mycophenolate• those with auto-immune diseases who may require long term immunosuppressive treatments <p>Children who are about to receive planned immunosuppressive therapy should be considered for vaccination prior to commencing therapy.</p>
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Annex B: Template referral letter inviting individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed

Dear **[name]**

You are eligible for a Spring Booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

We are writing to let you know that you are now eligible for a Spring booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on 21 February.

The advice recommends that individuals aged 12 and over who are immunosuppressed should be given a spring booster dose from around 6 months after their last COVID-19 vaccination dose. As a minimum three months should have elapsed since your previous COVID-19 vaccination dose. This is being advised as a precautionary measure to increase immunity levels and provide a better vaccine response, based on studies and experience with other vaccines.

You are eligible for a Spring Booster given your [diagnosis and/or treatment, delete as appropriate] on [date].

Please take this letter with you to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment to demonstrate your eligibility. You can get your vaccine by:

- booking an appointment via the [National Booking System](#) and selecting to book “a booster for people with a weakened immune system aged 12 to 74 years old”
- or attending any walk-in clinic offered by your local vaccination centre, community pharmacy or hospital hub. You can search for walk-in clinics in your local area on the NHS site finder.

Yours sincerely

[Signatory on behalf of NHS trust]