

For the attention of GP practices, COVID Medicines Delivery Units, 111 service operators and haematology departments: eligibility of people with myeloma, and other chronic B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders, for COVID-19 treatments

This letter provides information and further clarification for COVID-19 treatment providers regarding people with myeloma, and other chronic B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders.

The NHS recommends antivirals or neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) are offered to individuals with severe immunosuppression, and a positive COVID-19 test.

These treatments involve intravenous infusion of neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) or oral antiviral treatments, which are given to high-risk patients who have had a positive PCR test.

Who can have COVID-19 treatments?

The [NHS states that](#)¹ patients are eligible for COVID-19 treatments if all the following apply:

- They are aged 12 or over
- They are at the highest risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19
- They have symptoms of COVID-19
- They have tested positive for COVID-19 (via lateral flow test or PCR test)

Patients at highest risk of serious illness from COVID-19

The [Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\) is recommending](#)² that under Appendix 1 "Patient cohorts considered at highest risk from COVID-19 are to be prioritised for treatment with nMABs and antivirals", the following patients are considered the highest risk of serious illness from COVID-19:

- Myeloma/ multiple myeloma patients
- Chronic B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders
- Smouldering myeloma patients
- Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia patients
- Recipients of high-dose therapy and stem cell transplantation (HDT-SCT) in the last 12 months
- Recipients of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T cell therapy in the last 24 months
- Recipients of systemic anti-cancer treatments in the last 12 months ([see Appendix 3 of commissioning policy guidelines, 2022](#)³)
- Recipients of any chemotherapy within the last 3 months

¹ NHS Treatments for coronavirus (COVID-19)

² Department of Health & Social Care, Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Antivirals or neutralising monoclonal antibodies for non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19 (Version 5). Published 24 February 2022

³ Appendix 3: Chemotherapy agents from DHSC, Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Antivirals or neutralising monoclonal antibodies for non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19 (Version 5). Published 24 February 2022

AL amyloidosis patients are now also considered the highest risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and eligible for COVID-19 treatments (see [Figure 1 from the DHSC's independent advisory group report on COVID-19 treatments](#)⁴).

Symptoms of COVID-19

The DHSC consider the following as symptoms of COVID-19: fever, chills, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, red or watery eyes, body aches, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, loss of appetite, confusion, dizziness, pressure or tight chest, chest pain, stomach-ache, rash, sneezing, sputum or phlegm, or a runny nose.

Therefore, we ask that GPs and hospitals ensure COVID-19 treatments are available to eligible patients who contact them directly.

Haematology teams need to ensure that newly diagnosed patients are added to any relevant lists for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, so they are not missed.

We hope this information is helpful, and we thank you for reducing the health risk of your patients at this challenging time. More details on the COVID-19 treatments for people with myeloma and plasma cell dyscrasias can be found on the Myeloma UK COVID Hub [COVID-19 treatments page](#)⁵.

⁴ DHSC, Figure 1 from Defining the highest-risk clinical subgroups upon community infection with SARS-CoV-2 when considering the use of neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) and antiviral drugs: independent advisory group report. Published 30 May 2022

⁵ www.myeloma.org.uk/news-and-stories/covid-19-information-hub/covid-19-treatments/