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## CEG COVID-19 Response & Support in East London

Dear Colleagues, please find latest updates on the support available from CEG during the COVID-19 crisis. We will be sending regular newsletters during this time.

### CEG Shielding Searches

CEG last week provided practices with a suite of shielding searches. These CEG searches have now been removed from EMIS in light of the New Government advice below on high risk shielding. Your own system supplier will have provided suite of searches.

### NEW GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON HIGH RISK\* SHIELDING (listed at end of document\*)

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Government advised the following to identify clinically “high risk patients” (detailed information is in the attached documents).

**DO NOT** contact Group C (4). This overturns previous advice in Gov. letter of 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Cat B (Groups 1-3) HIGH RISK PATIENTS

**Phase 1, already completed:** used **hospital data** to identify high risk patients. They have been contacted by the NHS centrally. High risk flags have been added to the relevant patient record in the GP system.

**Phase 2, in progress:** is using primary care data extracted centrally to identify additional patients, based on the same criteria. They will be contacted by the NHS centrally. These patients will be flagged automatically in the GP system and your supplier will notify when completed.

**Phase 3, in progress:** hospital specialists and **GPs can add or subtract individual patients** from this register; by **GPs adding codes** to their clinical system. We will update when those codes are made available. Patients added to the risk register by GPs will need to be sent the High Risk COVID-19 letter by GPs (in documents in EMIS).

**But GPs cannot start this phase until Phase 2 is completed and the codes to flag and unflag patients are made available by IT system suppliers.**

For patients the GP considers should not (on clinical grounds) be listed in the High Risk group, the GP system supplier will identify a *Low/ Medium Risk code for the GP to add* to their records. This will remove them from the central high risk registry.

*ONLY IF planned care of HIGH RISK patients in Phases 1-3 above, need to be changed do Gov. recommend GPs contact patients by phone or text.*

A number of patients self-identified as being HIGH RISK on the government website. Next week, GPs will be sent details of these patients with recommendation to **review this list** and **include appropriate patients on high risk register**.

GPs should use clinical judgement **to identify extra HIGH RISK patients** who are particularly clinically vulnerable and may have been missed by central searches.

Practices and CCGs should be aware of very large numbers of people at increased risk. E.g. Around 50,000 people per CCG are on the “Flu list”. Most of these people are already under management of LTCs and it is questionable whether new searches provide any useful information in addition to that which is already available.

CEG will provide an additional template to assist with management of such patients at increased risk. See below.

## CEG COVID-19 Template v6

CEG have updated the COVID-19 template. Main changes include: Removal of Roth score/extra information in Red Flag Symptom Box, addition of prompts for Stiff Neck/Rash. Removal of advice text prompts as Accuryx have a number of advice templates for COVID.

**Please check you have the latest version of the template in your system.**

## Accessing EMIS via Laptop

We have been informed the CEG template is not always updated if you are using a laptop. If this is the case, contact EMIS support who will explain how to delete the cache which will resolve this issue.

## CEG COVID-19 Documents

CEG have published the following documents:

- Cremation form 4 medical certificate
- Health Protection Unit (HPU) Notification
- High Risk Covid-19 letter CEG

## Future Resources

CEG will build an additional page for the COVID-19 template to assist you recording data when contacting patients who may be vulnerable for social or other reasons. This will be available later this week.

## CEG Website

We will be updating our website at least weekly with any newly released guidance. We have links to individual CCGs COVID-19 updates as well as National Guidance.

## \*Government High Risk Group

The disease groups contacted as part of the above Government initiative include:

- Severe asthma  
*On LABA, OR montelukast, AND ALSO on continuous or regular prednisolone (i.e. 4 or more prednisolone prescriptions in the preceding 6 months)*
- Severe COPD  
*Long Acting Beta Agonist (LABA) AND a Long Acting Muscarinic (LAMA) AND an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) in preceding month OR on Roflumilast in preceding month.*
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers
- People with cancer on chemotherapy
- People with lung cancer and radiotherapy
- People with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma
- People having immunotherapy/ antibody treatments for cancer
- People with cancer on protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- People with recent bone marrow/stem cell transplants or on immunosuppressants
- People with rare diseases/ inborn errors of metabolism increasing infection risk (e.g. SCID, sickle cell disease etc., cystic fibrosis).
- People on immunosuppression therapies which significantly increase risk of infection.
- Pregnant women with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired