

To:

- GP Practices
- CCG accountable officers and Heads of primary care commissioning
- ICS/STP leaders
- Regional directors of primary care

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Dear Colleagues,

2 November 2020

Update on guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable individuals and actions for GPs

We are very grateful for the considerable work you have undertaken over the last seven months to identify, notify and care for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19.

As you will be aware, on 31 October the Government announced new national restrictions to help control the spread of the virus that will apply from 5 November. The reason we are writing is that the government, advised by the Chief Medical Officer:

- will be updating the advice and support available for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable alongside the new national restrictions
- has identified two additional groups of people who should now be considered as clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19:
 - adults with stage 5 chronic kidney disease
 - adults with Down's syndrome
- has highlighted the urgency of clinicians completing the process of reviewing – and, where appropriate, removing – children and young people on the Shielded Patient List (SPL).

We know this is an extremely challenging time for practices. However, given the vulnerable nature of those on this list, we are asking your practice to take the following specific actions:

- 1. Familiarise yourself with the updated guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people** when it is published [here](#). Publication is expected imminently and will be communicated to all patients on the SPL by letters, which we expect will begin arriving from the middle of this week. These letters will provide evidence for Statutory Sick Pay purposes if required. We will seek to provide primary care with any additional information following that publication [here](#).