



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
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13th May, 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 21407/21

- ***To ask the Minister for Health the acute hospitals that have been contacted for lists of heart failure patients with regard to the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane***

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above PQ, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As you are aware, the Government Vaccination Rollout strategy has been published and regular status updates can be found on the HSE website here: <https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/rollout/>. Over a million vaccine doses have now been administered in Ireland. This is a significant achievement and is enabling us to protect the most vulnerable and at-risk members of society.

I understand that it is anticipated that the majority of patients in group 7 ('people aged 16-64 who have an underlying condition that puts them at high risk of severe disease and death') will primarily be vaccinated by their general practitioners. However, many patients in this group are known to acute hospital services. Therefore, hospital vaccination teams are to remain operational and commence the vaccination of identified patients in group 7 once group 4 had been completed.

The clinical definitions of sub-groups of people in allocation Groups 4 and 7 are set out in detail in the National Immunisation Advisory Committee's (NIAC) guidance at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/covid19>

Operational definitions of group 7, aligned to the NIAC definitions have been developed to support and guide, but not constrain, clinical judgement in identifying patients in group 7. Heart Failure patients are classified within group 7 under Chronic heart disease.

The operational definitions are:

Sub-group	NIAC Definition	Operational Definition
Cancer	Haematological-within 1 year	Haematological cancer within 5 years of treatment
	Haematological-within 1-5 years	
	Non-haematological-within 1 year	Non-haematological within 1 year of treatment
	All other cancers on nonhormonal treatment	All other cancers on treatment other than those on hormonal treatment only
Chronic heart disease (and vascular) disease	Chronic heart disease, for example: heart failure, hypertensive cardiac disease	Heart failure defined as anyone on medication intended to treat heart failure
Chronic heart disease (and vascular) disease	Chronic heart disease, for example: heart failure, hypertensive cardiac disease	Hypertensive cardiac disease defined as
		anyone on antihypertensive medication with associated heart disease
	Chronic kidney disease with eGFR <30 ml/min	Any other person on treatment for chronic heart disease
Anyone with diagnosis of peripheral vascular disease or history of vascular surgery /endovascular procedure		
Chronic kidney disease		Any eGFR value measured at less than 30ml/min at any time
Chronic liver disease	Chronic liver disease for example cirrhosis or fibrosis	Anyone with a diagnosis of cirrhosis
Chronic liver disease Chronic neurological disease of condition	Chronic liver disease for example cirrhosis or fibrosis Chronic neurological disease or condition significantly compromising respiratory function and/or the ability to clear secretions, for example Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy	Anyone with ascites
		Anyone with a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis virus infection
		Haemachromatosis
		Any other chronic liver disease
		Anyone with Parkinson's disease on treatment who has had intervention, therapy or medication to manage secretions
Chronic neurological disease of condition Chronic respiratory disease	Chronic neurological disease or condition significantly compromising respiratory function and/or the ability to clear secretions, for example Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy Other chronic severe respiratory disease, for example: stable cystic fibrosis, severe asthma (continuous or repeated use	Anyone with cerebral palsy on treatment who has had intervention, therapy or medication to manage secretions
		Anyone with any other neurological condition on treatment who has had intervention, therapy or medication to manage secretions
		Anyone with Cystic Fibrosis not already vaccinated

	of systemic corticosteroids), moderate COPD	
Chronic respiratory disease Diabetes	Other chronic severe respiratory disease, for example: stable cystic fibrosis, severe asthma (continuous or repeated use of systemic corticosteroids), moderate COPD All other diabetes (Type 1 and 2)	Anyone with asthma who has had systemic corticosteroids twice in the previous twelve months, has had other therapies of comparable intensity and/or had a hospital admission in the last twelve months
		Anyone with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease who has had corticosteroids twice in the previous twelve months, has had other therapies of comparable intensity and/or had a hospital admission in the last twelve months
		Other chronic respiratory disease of comparable severity
		All other diabetes (Type 1 and 2)
Immunocompromised	Immunocompromised due to disease or treatment, for example: high dose steroids (as defined in Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland Chapter 3), persons living with HIV	Anyone who has had prednisolone equal to or more than 40mg for more than a week or 20mg for more than 2 weeks in the past 3 months.
Immunocompromised	Immunocompromised due to disease or treatment, for example: high dose steroids (as defined in Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland Chapter 3), persons living with HIV	Anyone who is HIV positive
		Anyone on an immunosuppressive agent in the past 3 months including but not limited to
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alemtuzumab • Azathioprine • Cladribine • Cyclophosphamide • Infliximab • Mycophenolate • Ocrelizumab Rituximab
	Disorders of intermediary metabolism not fulfilling criteria for very high risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone with a diagnosis of a primary immunodeficiency condition not already vaccinated

Inherited metabolic diseases		Anyone with a disorder of intermediary metabolism not already vaccinated
Intellectual disability	Intellectual disability excluding Down syndrome	Anyone with intellectual disability not already vaccinated
Obesity	BMI greater than 35Kg/m ²	Rough guide is anyone weighing 16 stone and 5'9" or shorter (about 100kg and 1.75m or shorter)
Severe mental illness	Severe mental illness, for example: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression	Schizophrenia requiring hospital admission or with pattern or self-harm in the previous 2 years OR long-term residential support OR ongoing link to disability or day care services
Severe mental illness	Severe mental illness, for example: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression	Bipolar disorder requiring hospital admission or with pattern of self-harm in the previous 2 years OR long-term residential support OR linked to disability or day care services
		Severe depression requiring hospital admission or with pattern of self-harm in the previous 2 years OR long-term residential support OR linked to disability or day care services
		Other severe mental illness requiring hospital admission or with pattern of selfharm in the previous 2 years OR longterm residential support OR linked to disability or day care services

I trust that this is of assistance

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations