

COVID-19 vaccines for stem cell transplant patients

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Summary of advice from the JCVI: Protecting stem cell transplant patients from COVID-19 with a primary course and booster vaccine doses

Notes:

- Applies only to patients aged 12 years and over. It is recommended that children, aged 5-11, who are at-risk or who live with an at-risk person, should receive TWO paediatric doses (10 micrograms) of the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) vaccine eight weeks apart. Further information can be [found here](#).
- Patients who receive COVID-19 vaccination *before* stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy should be re-vaccinated with all primary doses and booster doses they are eligible for. The timing of re-vaccination should be in line with [BSBMTCT recommendations](#) i.e. 3-6 months after transplant or CAR-T. **Use this template to arrange re-vaccination.**
- The JCVI has recommended that patients receive booster doses no less than 3 months after their previous dose.

	Patients who should receive THREE primary doses followed by two booster doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	Patients who should receive TWO primary doses followed by a single booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
Patient group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Patients within 24 months of receiving an autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplant at the time of their primary dose. ■ Patients at any time after transplant who had ongoing immunosuppression or graft versus host disease (GVHD) at the time of their primary dose. ■ Patients who have received CAR-T therapy in the past 24 months are likely to fit the criteria in the Green Book for a third primary dose. <p>Link to JCVI spring booster dose guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Patients over 24 months of receiving an autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplant AND who did not have immunosuppression or graft versus host disease (GVHD) at the time of their primary dose. <p>Link to updated JCVI booster guidance</p>
Timing	Third primary dose ideally at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The decision on timing of the third dose should be made by the specialist involved in the care of the patient. Initial booster (4th) dose no sooner than 3 months after the third primary dose. 'Spring booster' (5th) dose no sooner than 3 months after the previous booster dose.	Booster dose at least 3 months after the second primary dose.

	Patients who should receive THREE primary doses followed by two booster doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	Patients who should receive TWO primary doses followed by a single booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
Choice of vaccine: third primary dose	<p>For those aged 18 years and above JCVI advises a preference for mRNA vaccines – Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty®) or Moderna (Spikevax®) for the third primary dose.</p> <p>For 12–17 year olds Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty®) is preferred.</p> <p>AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria®) is an option for individuals who have received this vaccine previously where this would help to improve implementation. In exceptional circumstances, persons aged 40 years or over who received a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine previously may be offered a third dose of AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria®) vaccine following a decision by a health professional on a case-by-case basis.</p>	N/A
Choice of vaccine: booster dose	<p>Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) is preferred irrespective of the vaccine used for the primary course. As an alternative, individuals 18+ may be offered a half dose (50µg) of Moderna (Spikevax®).</p> <p>Where mRNA vaccines are not suitable, vaccination with AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria®) may be considered in those who were primed with the same vaccine.</p> <p>Please note this does not apply for 12–17 year olds who should receive Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) for all doses.</p>	<p>Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) is preferred irrespective of the vaccine used for the primary course. As an alternative, individuals 18+ may be offered a half dose (50µg) of Moderna (Spikevax®).</p> <p>Where mRNA vaccines are not suitable, vaccination with AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria®) may be considered in those who were primed with the same vaccine.</p> <p>Please note this does not apply for 12–17 year olds who should receive Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) for all doses.</p>
Identification and booking	<p>Specialists are responsible for identifying and contacting patients in their care who should receive these additional doses and the majority are being administered through hospital consultants and GPs.</p> <p>Adult patients in England with a clinical referral letter from their doctor can also either book an appointment via the <u>NHS national booking system</u>, or use the <u>NHS online COVID vaccine walk-in finder</u> to find walk-in appointments.</p>	<p>Individuals will be invited to book their booster vaccination by the <u>National Booking System</u> or via their local practice.</p>