

Dr Adrian Hayter and Dr Nisha Jayatilleke
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Dear Dr Hayter and Dr Jayatilleke

In light of emerging evidence published today on vaccine efficacy among those with cancer, I am writing to ask that the JCVI formally review the policy of waiting 12 weeks between vaccine doses for immunocompromised blood cancer patients.

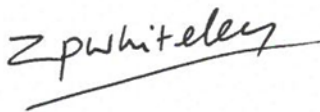
The Blood Cancer Alliance acknowledges that the study published today by Kings College London and the Crick Institute is not peer-reviewed and only involves a small number of patients given the Pfizer vaccine. However, the finding that, after three weeks of a single dose, only 13% of patients had an adequate antibody response is extremely concerning to the blood cancer community.

In light of this new evidence we are asking the JCVI to take two actions:

1. Urgently review this new evidence and the case for reducing the time between vaccine doses for immunocompromised blood cancer patients in general - and publish its decision in this area.
2. Identify and advise on where evidence needs to be strengthened to support the case for Government funding of substantial research and trials to understand vaccine efficacy for the immunocompromised at first and second dose of all vaccines in the longer term.

Many thousands of blood cancer patients have been shielding for over 12 months now, and have no information or reassurance as to whether the vaccination programme will provide a route out of these restrictions on their lives.

Yours sincerely,



Zack Pemberton-Whiteley
Chair, Blood Cancer Alliance

On behalf of: ACLT, Anthony Nolan, Blood Cancer UK, CLL Support, CML Support, DKMS, Leukaemia Care, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Northern Ireland, Leukaemia Cancer Society, Leukaemia UK, Lymphoma Action, MDS UK, Myeloma UK, Race Against Blood Cancer and WMUK.