

February 2021

Dear Colleague,

The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation has identified those people with underlying health conditions who they advise should be included in Priority Group 6 for the Covid-19 vaccine. The main risk groups* are listed below and these specifically include epilepsy:

- Chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis and severe asthma
- Chronic heart disease (and vascular disease)
- Chronic kidney disease 8
- Chronic liver disease
- **Chronic neurological disease including epilepsy**
- Down's syndrome
- Severe and profound learning disability
- Diabetes
- Solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers
- Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment
- Asplenia and splenic dysfunction
- Morbid obesity
- Severe mental illness

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological condition with a high load of co-morbidities, susceptible to change, even when seizures are controlled. It is, therefore, essential that everyone with the condition is offered the Covid-19 vaccine, even if they are seizure free.

*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950113/jcvi-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-dec-2020-revised.pdf (page 7-8)

Yours faithfully,



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