

Vaccinations for patients with cancer or blood disorders



2025/26

If you are receiving chemotherapy or steroids, your immune system may be slightly weaker than usual. This may make it harder for your body to fight off infections. Make sure you are up to date with all the vaccines you are eligible for to help protect yourself against preventable infectious diseases.

Flu, COVID-19 and pneumococcal vaccines

You are eligible to receive vaccination against

- seasonal flu
- COVID-19
- pneumococcal infection.



This is because these infections can be a major cause of harm to people with weakened immune systems. Evidence also suggests that getting the flu and COVID-19 viruses at the same time is associated with increased severity of disease compared to those with COVID-19 alone. It is therefore more important than ever to ensure best protection from both infections.

Contact your GP and arrange to have these vaccinations as early as possible. The vaccines cannot cause infection.

This year the flu vaccine will also be available for household contacts of anyone who is immunocompromised. Your household contacts should ask for the vaccine from their GP.

- Your vaccines should be given in the week before your next dose of chemotherapy.
- Patients with aplastic anaemia (a rare blood disorder) should not be vaccinated unless recommended by your haematologist.
- Children and young people with a weakened immune system should not receive the nasal vaccine for the flu. You will be offered an alternative vaccine that does not contain the live virus.

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Patients with cancer or blood disorders

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