

Blood cancer and covid treatment



The following blood cancer patients are eligible to be assessed for covid treatments:

- people with any type of blood cancer who HAVE had treatment in the last 12 months (not including aspirin), including people with chronic blood cancers such as chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) even if in molecular response or on TKIs, and myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) (including essential thrombocythaemia (ET), polycythaemia vera (PV) and myelofibrosis)
- people who had a **stem cell transplant in the last 12 months** either allogeneic (donor) or autologous (using your own stem cells)
- people with active graft vs host disease (GvHD) regardless of how long ago the transplant was
- people who had CAR-T therapy in the last 24 months
- anyone else, regardless of treatment, with chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia (CMML), myelofibrosis, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), myeloma (not including MGUS), or a chronic B-cell lymphoproliferative disorder such as chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL), hairy cell leukaemia, follicular lymphoma, small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), marginal zone lymphoma, MALT lymphoma or Waldenström macroglobulinaemia (WM).
- anyone who has been diagnosed with a mature T-cell malignancy, regardless of treatment (eg peripheral T-cell lymphomas, cutaneous T-cell lymphomas, T-cell prolymphocytic leukaemia, T-cell large granular lymphocytic leukaemia). This category was added in March 2023.

The only blood cancer patients not eligible for a covid treatment assessment are:

people who have chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), essential thrombocythaemia
(ET), polycythaemia vera (PV), T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma, or any other blood
cancer that does not affect B cells or mature T cells if they HAVE NOT had
treatment in the last 12 months, no CAR-T therapy in the last 24 months,
and no graft vs host disease (GvHD). If they HAVE had treatment, CAR-T or GvHD,
then they are still eligible for assessment – see above.

If you are not sure how to assess a patient's need for treatment, contact their consultant haematologist for advice. For more info: www.bloodcancer.org.uk/covid-antibody-treatment

Infections in people with blood cancer can become serious very quickly. A patient who feels OK one day can quickly decline. Consider checking back on patients.