

**Changes to patient transport arrangements for BHR**

*Version 1 – March 2020*

During the COVID emergency, the current patient transport eligibility criteria have been suspended with immediate effect and to support the national response, patient transport will only be provided to the following patients:

* Patients who have been discharged and need to be transported from one care  setting to another, or home, if there is no alternative means of transport; for  example, by friends or family, where appropriate, considering the risk of COVID-19  cross-contamination.
* Patients suspected of having COVID-19 who need to attend ongoing care appointments and have no access to private travel.
* Patients with life-sustaining care needs who need to attend a care setting, such as for dialysis, and have no access to private travel.
* Patients defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 who need to attend ongoing care appointments and have no access to private travel. The following are defined as extremely vulnerable:
1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
	1. lung cancer: who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy
	2. cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma:
	3. who are at any stage of treatment
	4. those having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
	5. those having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
	6. those who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last six months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs.
3. People with severe respiratory conditions, including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.
4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant and have significant congenital heart disease.

The process for requesting patient transport will continue to work as before, GPs will sign off transport (taking account of the new criteria above) and will send them to the CCGs by email (bhrccgs.patienttransport@nhs.net)  for sign off.  Once signed off the form will be returned to practices who can then contact G4S to book transport in the usual way.