



## COVID-19 (coronavirus) advice for patients with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia receiving TKI therapy

- Expert opinion from the NCRI CML Subgroup 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020, updated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020
- **The latest UK government updates are listed here:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

- **For specific questions regarding your condition and treatment, please contact your CNS or your CML specialist.**

### Are CML patients at higher risk for a more severe COVID-19 infection?

- Patients with CML do not appear at a higher risk of getting COVID-19, although data is limited.
- CML patients can be at a higher risk of COVID-19 infection if they are older (age over 70 years), have other medical conditions or are receiving other treatment which will suppress the immune system.
- There are no published data on the course of the COVID-19 infection in CML patients treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) and reports are rare. Reassuringly, very few CML patients on TKI therapy were infected in the Hubei province in China, and the outcome was similar to the general population.
- Having a diagnosis of CML or being treated with TKI therapy does not convincingly cause clinically significant immune suppression.
- Self-isolation (self-quarantine) for 12 weeks is recommended for at-risk individuals, but in our specialist opinion, the diagnosis of CML or treatment for CML alone does not fall in this category.
- The life expectancy of CML patients is currently approaching that of the general population. The decision to place CML patients on TKI therapy in the high-risk category for COVID-19 infection must not have a negative impact on triage or other in-patient treatment related decisions, due to their excellent outcome.
- Patients should not interrupt or reduce their TKI medication without the advice of their CML specialist team.