

## Flu Vaccine

People receiving System Anti-Cancer Therapies (SACT) are at increased risk of contracting the flu.

It is advised that people receiving SACT should have the flu vaccine.

Your flu vaccine is available at your GP surgery. Please make enquiries at your local surgery.

Recommended timing of flu vaccine is ideally before any SACT treatment commences. However, if you are already receiving SACT, the flu vaccine should be given within 2-3 days following a SACT treatment.

The reason for receiving flu vaccine in the above mentioned time-scale is for avoiding the time period when your immunity is likely to be suppressed.

NHS England advises that adults should have flu vaccine two weeks before children who are to receive live flu vaccine via the nasal route.

## Pneumococcal Vaccination



It is advisable for people receiving SACT to receive the pneumococcal vaccination.

The same guidelines as the flu vaccine apply with regards to timing of vaccination.

People receiving SACT should only receive inactivated vaccines (non-live vaccine).

Family members can receive both live and inactivated vaccines. This offers protection for person receiving SACT.



## Inactivated Vaccines & Live Vaccines

Inactivated vaccines include:

- Flu Vaccine
- Pneumococcal Vaccination

These vaccines are recommended for people receiving SACT.



**Live vaccines should be AVOIDED whilst receiving SACT**

Live Vaccines include:

- Varicella Zoster
- MMR
- BCG

## PEOPLE AT RISK

Some of the people at risk of the flu are:

- People receiving SACT
- Immunosuppressed patients
- Pregnant women
- Babies under 6 months old
- People over the age of 65

For further information on the flu vaccine, please see:



Public Health  
England



<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

## To clarify:

- People receiving SACT should have flu and pneumococcal vaccine
- Given at GP surgery
- Timing of vaccination is important **if on chemotherapy, not immunotherapy**
- **Only inactivated vaccines for people on SACT**
- Family members can have both live and inactivated vaccines

Leaflet updated Sept 2020

**Normal vaccinations can recommence six months after completion of chemotherapy if disease is in remission**

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## PATIENT INFORMATION

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