

GP

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Dear Doctor,

Your patient is a family or close household contact of one of our patients who may undergo an allogeneic bone marrow transplant (BMT) within the next few months. Based on joint guidelines, with recommendations from, The European Group of Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), and the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT). * The Oxford Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit currently recommend the following:

Family and close household contacts

Family and other close household contacts of BMT recipients should be immunised in accordance with the National Immunisation Schedule. Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) should be used when vaccination is indicated. Specific vaccination against influenza and varicella zoster should be considered as below:

Influenza vaccination, using inactivated vaccine, of family and close household contacts is recommended to start in the season before the transplant and continue for as long as there is contact with an immunocompromised BMT recipient.

Varicella Zoster (VZ) virus Varilrix® or Varivax® vaccination should be administered to all family and close household contacts ≥ 12 months old, who are not pregnant or immunocompromised who have a negative history of varicella zoster infection. Those who have an uncertain history should have serological testing at their GP surgery and subsequently be vaccinated if seronegative.

Schedule: 2 doses 4 weeks apart starting as soon as the decision to transplant has been made and ideally finishing no later than 4 weeks before the conditioning regime begins. If this is not possible 2 months is acceptable. If the vaccinee develops a rash within 42 days post vaccination they should avoid close contact with the recipient until all spots are crusted or the rash has resolved.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Dr Andy Peniket, BMT Programme Director: 01865 235259 or one of the BMT Nurse Coordinators: 01865 235281 or 235282.

Yours faithfully

The Oxford Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit

* Ljungman P et al. Guidelines: Vaccination of hematopoietic cell transplant recipients.

Bone Marrow Transplantation 2009, 44, 521 – 526

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