

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as Chair of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA UK) to confirm our organisation's stance on access to COVID-19 vaccines for those who care for someone with pulmonary hypertension (who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable).

The majority of these patients are cared for by a family member or loved one, who are often not in receipt of a carer's allowance.

The amendment to group six on the priority list for vaccinations, as set out at gov.uk, states that: *"At the same time as adults under 65 years with long term conditions, the vaccine will also be offered to unpaid adult carers – those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill."*

If their carer was to contract COVID-19, this would absolutely put the welfare of someone with pulmonary hypertension (PH) at risk.

Despite this, we are aware of many carers being turned away from vaccinations via their GP surgery.

The care these people provide is vital, and often includes shopping, transportation to medical appointments, and personal care too. If these carers were to contract COVID-19 they would be forced into isolation, meaning they would be rendered unable to fulfil their caring duties.

We understand the definition within the above amendment is opaque and have written the government to call for absolute clarity around eligibility.

At the PHA UK we strongly believe that those who care for someone with PH should be receiving a vaccine alongside those in receipt of carer's allowance and we ask that you take this into consideration when allocating vaccinations at your practice.

We believe that clinicians such as yourself are best placed to make decisions about your patients, and you should have the autonomy to do so. As stated above, the PHA UK is challenging this at a national level too, to ensure equity of access to vaccinations for all unpaid carers.

Kind regards



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