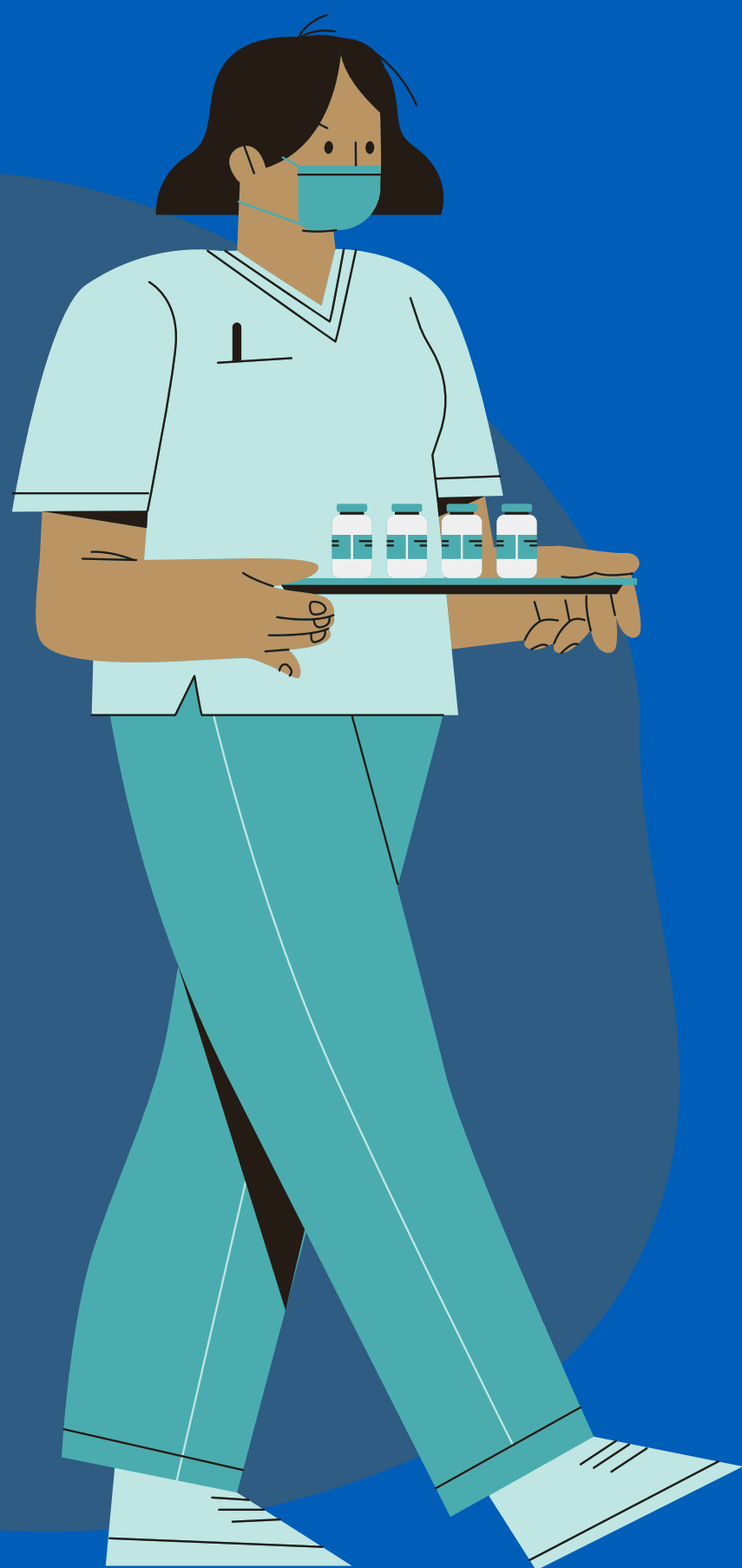


# WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A THIRD DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE?



People who are severely immunosuppressed due to underlying health conditions or medical treatment are being identified and offered a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccination to help reduce the risk of getting seriously ill.

JCVI guidance recommends that a third dose be offered to individuals aged 12 years and over with severe immunosuppression, including those who are being treated for conditions such as cancer or for those with long-term chronic conditions where their immunity is significantly affected by regular medication.

A list of conditions and treatments which identifies people who are considered severely immunosuppressed has been published by the JCVI and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-primary-covid-19-vaccine-dose-for-people-who-are-immunosuppressed-jcvi-advice>.

If a vaccination cannot be offered at hospital at the time of the patient's visit, the patient will be given a letter from their consultant, copied to their GP, so they can access a vaccination at an alternative clinic near to where they live.

If a patient has already received a letter from their consultant or GP advising on when they should have their third dose, they can take the letter to a walk-in vaccination site. Vaccinators will not be able to administer the vaccine without this letter.

It is recommended that the third dose be given at least eight weeks after the second, as part of the primary course of immunisation. If the patient's GP or consultant believe that an alternative interval should be offered, because of ongoing treatment or starting treatment which will suppress the individual's immune system, then this timing may be altered.

Clinicians have been identifying patients who need a third primary dose due to immunosuppression. The NHS is now writing to patients who may be eligible, so they can talk through their options with their GP or consultant if they have not done so already.

In the meantime, any patient who has not yet been contacted but thinks they may be eligible can contact their consultant for an update.