

March 18, 2021

**COM-2021-015**

Dear provider of healthcare-related services,

Cancer patients are at high risk for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-associated complications and there is a need for vaccinating these patients to avoid excess morbidity and mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee published the recommendations included in Table 1 regarding COVID-19 vaccination in cancer patients.

**Table 1. COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Cancer Patients**

<b>Patients Treatment/Cancer Type</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HCT)/Cellular Therapy</b>	
Allogeneic transplantation Autologous transplantation Cellular therapy (e.g., CAR T-cell)	At least 3 months post-HCT/cellular therapy
<b>Hematologic Malignancies</b>	
Receiving intensive cytotoxic chemotherapy (e.g., cytarabine/anthracycline- based induction regimens for acute myeloid leukemia)	Delay until absolute neutrophil count (ANC) recovery
Marrow failure from disease and/or therapy expected to have limited or no recovery	When vaccine available
Long-term maintenance therapy (e.g., targeted agents for chronic lymphocytic leukemia or myeloproliferative neoplasms)	When vaccine available
<b>Solid Tumor Malignancies</b>	
Receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy	When vaccine available
Targeted therapy	When vaccine available
Checkpoint inhibitors and other immunotherapy	When vaccine available
Radiation	When vaccine available
Major surgery	Separate date of surgery from vaccination by at least a few days
<b>Caregivers and Household/Close Contacts (≥16 years of age)</b>	
Any time eligible to receive the vaccine	

If there are limits in vaccine availability, the NCCN COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee recommends considering prioritization among cancer patients as follows:

- Prioritize cancer patients with active cancer on treatment, those planned to start treatment, and those immediately (<6 months) post-treatment, except those receiving only hormonal therapy, to receive one of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines that have an emergency use authorization (EUA) by Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Consider additional risk factors for such patients and other factors linked to adverse COVID-19 complications including, but not limited to:
  - a. Patients with advanced age (e.g., ≥65 years of age).
  - b. Patients with comorbidities (e.g., chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, or renal disease).
  - c. Social and demographic factors that include poverty, limited access to health care, and underrepresented minorities.

Please refer to the full [guidance for COVID-19 vaccinations in people with cancer](#) for additional important details. Other vital information about the impact of COVID-19 on cancer care can be found at [NCCN.org/covid-19](http://NCCN.org/covid-19).

The situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is dynamic and continuously changing. The recommendations from the NCCN can change as well. We strongly encourage the frequent revision of updated information provided by the FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the NCCN to assure that your practices are consistent with the most actualized information.

PharmPix is committed to our members' health and wellness. It is our priority to offer high-quality services and support practices for health promotion and diseases prevention. If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us at 787-522-5252, extension 137. Also, you can access our recent communications at our providers' portal: <http://www.pharmpix.com/providers/>.

Regards,

Clinical Department

Reference:

- NCCN Shares New Guidance Principles for Vaccinating People with Cancer Against COVID-19. Nccn.org. (2021). Retrieved February 2021, from <https://www.nccn.org/about/news/newsinfo.aspx?NewsID=2552>.
- NCCN Provides New COVID-19 Treatment Advice; Updates Vaccine Guidance for Cancer Patients. Nccn.org. (2021). Retrieved March 2021, from <https://www.nccn.org/about/news/newsinfo.aspx?NewsID=2648&fbclid=IwAR0TBgl4p0uoZFUzmdkvtXCbU1T2lhg4dohTy369qWnwnmg>.