**Your patient has secondary immunodeficiency – Information for GPs**

Your patient \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has been diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secondary immunodeficiencies (SID) occur when the immune system is weakened by a medical treatment or another health condition. SIDs are becoming increasingly common as medical therapies for cancer and autoimmunity become more potent, with more and more patients entering long term remissions from their underlying health problem.

Once a patient is diagnosed, they are often relieved to have an explanation for their chronic ill health but also need support in coming to terms with their secondary immunodeficiency, especially as it can be caused by one of their treatments. They may feel anxious and need a lot of reassurance.

Treatment recommendations depends on the nature of deficiency. Please see our booklet on [‘Secondary Immunodeficiency’](https://www.immunodeficiencyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ImmunodeficiencyUKSecondaryImmuno.pdf) downloadable from the Immunodeficiency UK web site.

As people with a secondary immunodeficiency may have difficulty in fighting off infection, they will often need prompt, vigorous and prolonged treatment with anti-microbial therapies: antibiotics, anti-virals and anti-fungals. Some patients may need prophylactic antibiotic treatment especially if they have complications like bronchiectasis.

A few people may need to have immunoglobulin replacement therapy which can be given intravenously or subcutaneously, supervised by their immunology team, and may occasionally need input from their GP in facilitating this.

GPs may find it helpful to ensure that patients have ease of access, and that all clinicians and other practice staff are aware that early intervention is essential to prevent worsening infections and complications.

There is a lot of information for patients and health professionals on the [Immunodeficiency UK](https://www.immunodeficiencyuk.org/) web site, including the downloadable booklet [‘A Guide for General Practitioners’](https://www.immunodeficiencyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/GuideforGPs.pdf) which you will find useful.

Your patient is under the care of the Immunology Team at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please do not hesitate to contact the team with any queries, they should be really pleased to hear from you!

**Contact details**

Consultants \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Specialist Nurses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_