Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you in light of the Government’s recent decision to not procure Evusheld until the NICE appraisal has completed in 2023.

This announcement was a crushing disappointment to many in our community, who are feeling forgotten and left behind. This is exacerbated by the fact that the rationale behind this decision is unclear. Given that there is a wealth of evidence that Evusheld is effective (an extract of which is included here in an appendix) and 32 other countries have already made the drug available, we cannot understand why immunocompromised people in the UK will not be given this much-needed protection.

The latest real-world data, published 29 July and collected in Israel during the BA.1 and BA.2 waves, shows that immunocompromised people who took Evusheld were half as likely to become infected with Covid, and 92% less likely to be hospitalised and/or die.

I urge you to reconsider and give the immunocompromised community the opportunity to lead normal lives again. These concerns are held widely and we are pleased to send this letter jointly with organisations who represent many of the approximately 500,000 immunosuppressed people in the UK, which includes organ transplant recipients and people living with long-term medical conditions. These groups remain at very high risk from Covid - transplant recipients have a relative risk of death 26 times that of the general population, despite vaccination.

We know that other Covid-19 treatments have been procured and made available on the NHS via the RAPID C-19 route before being fully appraised. The Government must be transparent about why the same is not the case for Evusheld. I would be grateful if you could share with us the following as a matter of urgency:

23 August 2022
• The clinical bodies consulted in advance of this decision
• The analysis of the clinical evidence used to make this decision
• The benchmark of evidence your Department needed to be persuaded to procure.

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Peters
Chief Executive, Blood Cancer UK

Dr Susan Walsh
Chief Executive, Immunodeficiency UK

Clare Jacklin
Chief Executive, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS)

Paul Howard
Chief Executive, LUPUS UK

Zack Pemberton-Whiteley
Chief Executive, Leukaemia Care

Nick Moberly
Chief Executive, MS Society

Sue Brown
Chief Executive, Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance

Paul Bristow
Chief Executive, Kidney Care UK

Joel Rose
Chief Executive, Cardiomyopathy UK

Andrea Brown
Chief Executive, National Kidney Federation
APPENDIX
Please note, the studies marked * are real-world evaluations of Evusheld, with control arms. These have been conducted in the United States, France, and Israel during the Omicron waves.


Nguyen, Y., et al. (2022) ‘Pre-exposure prophylaxis with tixagevimab and cilgavimab (Evusheld) for COVID-19 among 1112 severely immunocompromised patients’ Clinical Microbiology and Infection. in press.