

Dear Patient,

I am writing to let you know that the NHS has been giving particular thought to patients with conditions like yours during the coronavirus pandemic and the extra steps that we can take to keep you well. The Chief Medical Officer has asked specialist doctors like me to identify patients who are at particular risk from COVID-19 and get in touch with them.

That risk, which affects quite a large number of patients with a range of conditions, comes from the fact that your immune system – your defence against illness – may not be as strong as it would be for people without your condition.

I know this will be an additional worry, when you may already be concerned and possibly confused by everything that is happening and all the advice that is being given. This has included much about social distancing.

I now need to advise you to reduce even more your contact with other people, to lessen your risk of being infected. This means you must self-isolate for the next 12 weeks.

This letter is being copied to your GP. We will be working closely with your general practitioner to ensure you get the medicines and care you need at this difficult time.

If you need any further information, please check your hospital website, the BSG website, the CCUK website or the British Liver Trust website for more information.

Action required by you:

If you are feeling well please follow this advice to self-isolate now and *do not contact* the hospital unnecessarily.

In the event of being concerned about your health condition deteriorating or being unwell please follow your normal contact procedures with specialty and primary care teams.

Yours with best wishes,

Specialty Care