Time to Consider the Compromised!

As COVID-19 restrictions lift and life returns to a new normal for many in society, the lives of immunocompromised (IC) blood cancer patients remain at risk since more than 1 in 4 do not produce antibodies against COVID-19 even after a full course of vaccinations.

These patients carry a high risk of infection, severe disease course and death, and suffer from psychological side-effects due to prolonged shielding.

To help drive change in health policy & protect those who can't protect themselves the International COVID-19 Blood Cancer Coalition calls on YOU as a policy maker to:

- 1 Ensure access to pre- and postexposure prophylaxis and antivirals for high-risk IC blood cancer patients.
- 2 Make access to vaccinations and additional doses a policy for these patients.
- Facilitate access to fast response COVID-19 testing for high-risk IC patients.

4 Promote access to psychological and psycho-oncological services specifically for IC blood cancer patients who need to continue shielding despite the relaxation of public safety measures.

<u>In their joint statement</u>, more than 70 researchers, clinicians, patient organisations and medical societies urge stakeholders to consider IC blood cancer patients in health policy decisions.

About the ICBCC:

A multi-stakeholder coalition, the International COVID-19 Blood Cancer Coalition, calls upon decision-makers in health policy and care to enable access to IC blood cancer patients to life-saving therapies, and to drive change to accommodate the needs of those patients in general and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Find out more at *icbcc.info*