**Updated Thursday 10 February to include latest information from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation**

**This Action for M.E. template letter/email sets out why people with M.E. should be included in priority group 6 for the Covid-19 vaccine. We would encourage you to edit it to add your own voice for the best chance of a personalised response, and please let us know how you get on. Feedback so far indicates that some people had the desired outcome, while others have not.**

Dear

I’m sure your surgery is receiving many queries about the COVID vaccine program, but I want to make it clear that I’m not just looking for information on the vaccine (which I’m aware can be found elsewhere). Rather, I’m seeking a clinical judgement about my level of risk, as someone with a difficult-to-classify condition, and what this means for when I will be offered the vaccine. I’m looking for a specific judgement because I seem to have contradictory information about which priority group I fall into.

In the advice on prioritisation from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), priority group 6 includes people with “underlying health conditions [including…] chronic neurological disease.”

In its 10 February response to Dr Charles Shepherd’s letter, sent on behalf of a number of M.E./CFS charities, the JCVI stated that “the examples included are not exhaustive, and the advice states that within these Groups, the prescriber should apply clinical judgment to take into account the risk of COVID-19 exacerbating any underlying disease that a patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 itself.”

**Given that the World Health Organisation classifies M.E./CFS as a neurological condition (under Post-Viral Fatigue Syndrome), as does NHS England and SNOMED, my understanding is that having M.E./CFS makes me eligible for** priority group 6.

The draft new National Institute of Health and Care Excellence guideline for M.E. highlights that M.E. “can be worsened by particular triggers, for example new infections” (Section 1.6.4 on page 14). See www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gid-ng10091/documents/draft-guideline

My understanding is that GP surgeries are responsible for identifying eligible patients to invite for the vaccine, based on the JCVI guidance and risk status. I’m therefore asking you to assess my risk, so that you can appropriately assess my priority level for the vaccine.

With thanks for your time and best regards