



An introduction to the CLL Support Guide for General Practitioners and other Health Care Professionals

<https://cllsupport.org.uk/health-care-professionals-hcp/>

The **CLL Support Guide for General Practitioners (the CLL GP Guide)** has been produced in consultation with haematologists and clinical nurse specialists and is approved by the UK CLL Forum. It has the potential to significantly reduce hospital outpatient attendance, enabling more efficient and safer use of limited resources. It also helps identify people who might benefit from earlier intervention.

The **Guide** is based on a model already in use in the Oxford area. The new generic guide is concise, and the content is easy to access by busy GPs and other clinicians.

Why is the Guide needed?

Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia / small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL)* is the most common type of leukaemia in the UK. Most patients with CLL are diagnosed incidentally in the community; a GP will not expect to see many cases of CLL during their career.

The management of patients with Stage A CLL should be through shared care between specialist and community care. Agreeing on shared protocols, defining responsibilities, and ensuring easy communication between the haematology unit, GPs and patients is key to successful shared care and is the approach outlined in the **Guide**.

How is the CLL GP Guide accessed?

The UK CLL Forum and the CLL Nurse Forum will be sharing the Guide with haematology units across the UK.

The link to the **Guide** is then inserted at the top of the first letter from the haematologist to the GP. For ease of access the GP can pin the link to the patient's home page. Incorporating the link into the hospital letter template should ensure that the guide is visible in subsequent correspondence.

As a hallmark of CLL is progressive immunodeficiency, GPs have a vital role in ensuring that the specific vaccination schedule is instigated as soon after diagnosis as possible. The **Vaccination Passport** for patients produced by CLL Support is complementary to the **CLL GP Guide**. The Vaccination Passport can be downloaded at:

<https://cllsupport.org.uk/information-support/further-information-resources/order-publications/>

CLL Support is extremely grateful to all the clinicians who have helped to develop the CLL GP Guide, especially the UK CLL Forum.

** As CLL and SLL are very similar conditions, treated in the same way, all references to CLL also apply to SLL.*

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