



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

MOH Circular No. 09/2022

28 January 2022

Please see Distribution List

ADDENDUM TO MEDICAL CIRCULAR 170A/2021: (I) ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION PERIOD FOR INDIVIDUALS TEMPORARILY MEDICALLY INELIGIBLE FOR COVID-19 VACCINES AND (II) PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS MEDICALLY INELIGIBLE FOR BOOSTER VACCINES

This circular reminds doctors on the certification process and provides updated instructions to certifying doctors on the following:

- i) To include an additional two-month exemption period immediately after the medically ineligible period, for individuals with time-limited medical ineligibility for all COVID-19 vaccines under the National Vaccination Programme (NVP), due to the following:
 - o Transplant within past 3 months; or
 - o Aggressive immunotherapy; or
 - o Active cancer on treatment resulting in severe immunocompromise.
- ii) To issue the standard memo based on the template provided by MOH **and** document the certification in Critical Medical Information System (CMIS) or Patient Risk Profile Portal (PRPP) for persons assessed to be medically ineligible for all COVID-19 booster vaccines offered under the NVP.

Extension of Exemption Period for Two Months

2. The additional two-month exemption period is to give individuals with time-limited medical ineligibility sufficient time to be fully vaccinated, while continuing to be exempted from Vaccination-differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS), on the basis that they were unable to be vaccinated earlier due to medical ineligibility.

3. Certifying doctors should issue the updated standard memo (**Annex A**) to these individuals, and document the certification in CMIS or PRPP. The “end date” to be keyed into CMIS or PRPP should be inclusive of the two months. The memo has been updated to state that the exemption period includes the medical ineligibility period plus a two-month period during which these individuals are fit for vaccination.



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4. For individuals with time-limited medical ineligibility who have previously been issued with a memo without the additional two-month exemption period, certifying doctors may re-issue the memo upon request by the patient and update the “end date” in CMIS or PRPP.

5. Certifying doctors must inform these individuals to receive their vaccination within these two months, and that no further extension will be granted. If extension of medical ineligibility is subsequently warranted on medical grounds, they will need to obtain a medical reassessment. A new memo should be issued, with submission of the data via CMIS or PRPP.

Medically Ineligible for Booster

6. For persons who have completed their primary vaccine series but subsequently become medically ineligible for all COVID-19 booster vaccines offered under the NVP, certifying doctors are to issue the standard memo provided by MOH and to clearly indicate the grounds for medical ineligibility. The assessment is to be documented in CMIS or PRPP. The process remains the same as the process for the certification of individuals who are medically ineligible for all COVID-19 vaccines under the NVP. (See **Annex A** for the memo template.)

Reminders on Certification Process

7. Doctors are reminded to keep to the following in certifying medical ineligibility for COVID-19 vaccines under the NVP:

- i) Issuance of the standard memo based on the template provided by MOH and **indicating clearly the grounds on which the person is assessed to be medically ineligible.** (See **Annex A** for the memo template and the three categories of medical ineligibility stated. This template supersedes the template provided in the Medical Circular 170A/2021); and
- ii) All issuance of the memos for medical ineligibility must be done with proper clinical assessment, and documented in CMIS or PRPP. **If the medical ineligibility is not documented in CMIS or PRPP, the patients’ medical ineligibility certification is not considered valid** – such patients will not be able to show that they are “Exempted from Vaccination” on their Trace Together (TT) and HealthHub (HH) for VDS exemption purposes.

8. MOH may conduct ad-hoc compliance checks and audits to ensure that the proper process and documentation for the certification of medical ineligibility is carried out appropriately. Inappropriate issuance of the standard memos, for example, unjustifiably long periods of exemption, or exemptions for typical side-effects of vaccination that are not contraindications for future vaccine doses, will be subjected to MOH’s further investigation. Regulatory actions may be taken against those who are found to inappropriately issue such medical ineligibility memos.



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This addendum circular should be read in conjunction with Circular 183/2021 ADDENDUM TO MEDICAL CIRCULAR 170A/2021: CLARIFICATIONS ON PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MEDICALLY INELIGIBLE FOR ALL COVID-19 VACCINES UNDER THE NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME on the criteria required to be fulfilled for a person to be considered medically ineligible.