We are due to issue letters today to this extremely vulnerable group of patients registered at Kerrsland Surgery. Please find attached the list of diseases and conditions which have been identified.

This guidance is for people, including children, who are at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID–19) because of an underlying health condition, and for their family, friends and carers. It is intended for use in situations where the extremely vulnerable person is living in their own home, with or without additional support. This includes the extremely clinically vulnerable people living in long–term care facilities, either for the elderly or persons with special needs.

Shielding is a measure to protect people who are clinically extremely vulnerable by minimising all interaction between those who are extremely vulnerable and others. We are strongly advising people with serious underlying health conditions (listed below), which put them at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID–19), to rigorously follow shielding measures in order to keep themselves safe.

What do we mean by extremely vulnerable?

People falling into this extremely vulnerable group include:

1.Solid organ transplant recipients.

2.People with specific cancers: •people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer

•people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment

•people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer

•people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors

•people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs

3.People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.

4.People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).

5.People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.

6.Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

Shielding is for your personal protection. It is your choice to decide whether to follow the measures we advise. Individuals who have been given a prognosis of less than 6 months to live, and some others in special circumstances, could decide not to undertake shielding. This will be a deeply personal decision. We advise calling your GP or specialist to discuss this.

We hope these letters should arrive no later than the 31st March 2020.

Mr Mark Simpson

Practice Manager

On Behalf of

Kerrsland Surgery