



CLL SOCIETY

## **CLL Society's Official Statement Concerning Routine Trial and Clinical Visits for CLL and other Blood Cancer Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The CLL Society, the largest patient focused CLL nonprofit organization in the USA, in consultation with members of its medical advisory board and outside experts, is urging each and every research and/or patient care facility to put patient safety first and immediately postpone all routine visits for vulnerable populations and instead, find alternative methods to check in on patients and deliver their medications.

We recognize that chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) patients, as well as most all cancer patients, need their medications, their healthcare providers need to be certain that it is still appropriate for their patients to continue on their present therapy, and the researchers need to gather their data.

During the present COVID-19 pandemic, we also need to add to the calculation of this balance the safety of immune compromised patients who have been widely advised to avoid routine hospital or clinic visits, especially for those whose disease is stable, in order to reduce their risk of exposure to SARS CoV-2.

In regard to clinical trials, many research centers are now allowing patients assessed as stable by the trial team to have routine assessments done by local health care providers or when possible, by phone or telemedicine. They are mailing trial medications to patients. In addition, several medical centers are also postponing all non-urgent visits for cancer patients. In fact, they are often insisting that immune suppressed patients stay away and instead are helping them with phone calls or in some cases telemedicine.

Finally, we recognize that COVID-19 may be an additional stress in your life that may be causing anxiety, fear, loneliness, and other emotional as well as practical concerns. It is our hope that this information will help with practical concerns you may have.

As always, our motto remains: **Smart Patients Get Smart Care™**.

Brian Koffman, MDCM  
John Byrd, MD  
Neil Kay, MD  
Anthony Mato, MD, MSCE  
John Pagel, MD, PhD

### About The CLL Society

The CLL Society Inc. is a global, patient-centric, physician-curated nonprofit organization focused on patient education, support and research. Dedicated to addressing the unmet needs of the CLL and related blood cancer communities, the CLL Society explains the rapidly changing therapeutic landscape and the importance of clinical trials, builds patient support groups, educates patients and providers, and does patient focused CLL research.