

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Tel: +44 (0)20 7210 5150-4  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7210 5407

liam.donaldson@dh.gsi.gov.uk  
www.dh.gov.uk/cmo

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Mr Richard Simpson

Dear 

Thank you for your further e-mail of 1 September 2009 about the concerns of patients with ME.

You are right in your assumption that we keep a watch on the very large literature and broad discussion on possible triggers and subtle immunological variations in chronic fatigue.

However, these are not reflected in a generally increased susceptibility to severe or complicated acute viral infections in chronic fatigue sufferers, and priorities for seasonal or other influenza vaccination do not include this patient group as a whole.

Those patients with ME, or chronic fatigue, who may have additional health problems which would indicate a need for earlier vaccination, should therefore contact their General Practitioner to enquire whether they fall into a priority group. The General Practitioner will then be able to make a risk assessment as to the need for, and potential benefit of vaccination, against the background of swine flu existing at the time.

We hope that this clarifies things.

Yours sincerely



**SIR LIAM DONALDSON  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**