March 24, 2020

To: Center Medical Directors and Data Managers

From: Bronwen E Shaw, MD PhD
CIBMTR Associate Chief Scientific Director

Subject: COVID-19 Impact to CIBMTR International Centers

Our response to COVID-19 continues to evolve due to the fluid nature of the situation. The following information, processes, and guidelines will be continuously evaluated and updated as needed.

During this historic event, thank you for willingness and capability to be flexible and focused on serving the patient and your transplant center’s needs.

- CIBMTR will continue to collect data and reimburse centers during this time.
- FormsNet3 is fully operational, including CIBMTR Center Support (http://nmdp.servicenow.com/csm) to answer any of your center’s questions.

We understand that data, including enrollment (CRID generation) may be sent to CIBMTR at a reduced rate, or not at all, during this pandemic. We also understand that each center will have different capabilities and may have variable access to FormsNet3 and their institutional data.

For centers participating in the International CPI pilot (Australia, Brazil, and New Zealand), CIBMTR Center Support has received questions from centers about COVID-19 and the ability to meet the 60% form completion for the trimester ending June 30, 2020. Effective immediately, CIBMTR is suspending CPI requirements for the trimester ending June 30, 2020 for all product types (Allogeneic Related, Allogeneic Unrelated, Autologous, and Cellular Therapy (CT) infusions).

We ask that if your center is participating in Transplant Center Specific Analysis (queries, data review, and follow-up) and Consecutive Transplant Audit (CTA), please prioritize these tasks first.

Consent to CIBMTR Research Database

CIBMTR strongly recommends sites continue to consent patients to the research database, particularly if this can be done by the clinical staff already consenting the patient to their transplant. We believe this is acceptable as there is no impact to the patient of being on the protocol (such as extra visits or lab studies). Even if CRID generation and data submission are delayed, it is important to obtain consent so data can be provided later and be used for research.
Clinical Data Validation (Audit)

Due to travel restrictions, on-site CIBMTR Data Audits are currently on hold. Any center currently scheduled for an on-site audit March through September 2020 will be contacted by the CIBMTR ahead of their audit to determine if remote access to each center’s EMR can be granted in order to conduct the audit remotely. If remote access is not an option, the center’s on-site data audit will be rescheduled in FY21. The CIBMTR will also be monitoring the travel restrictions in order to continually reassess the plan for on-site audits resuming as soon as possible.

We will continue to communicate as the situation changes. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact Eileen Tuschl, Data Operations-Sr. Manager of Customer Service and Education at etuschl@mcw.edu.