



## **Advice for patients of the Northern Ireland Regional Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, regarding the COVID 19 intramuscular vaccination**

- **The COVID 19 Vaccination MUST be administered by intramuscular injection.**
- **Individuals with bleeding disorders should consult their Clinical Team for advice on treatment required before administration.**

### **Administering COVID-19 vaccine to individuals with a bleeding disorder**

Individuals with bleeding disorders may be vaccinated intramuscularly if, in the opinion of a doctor familiar with the individual's bleeding risk, vaccines or similar small volume intramuscular injections can be administered with reasonable safety by this route. If the individual receives medication/treatment to reduce bleeding, for example treatment for haemophilia, intramuscular vaccination can be scheduled shortly after such medication/treatment is administered. A fine needle (23 or 25 gauge) should be used for the vaccination, followed by firm pressure applied to the site (without rubbing) for at least 2 minutes (**ACIP, 2019**). The individual/carer should be informed about the risk of haematoma from the injection.

### **Administering COVID-19 vaccine to individuals taking anticoagulants**

Individuals on stable anticoagulation therapy, including individuals on warfarin who are up-to-date with their scheduled INR testing and whose latest INR was below the upper threshold of their therapeutic range, can receive intramuscular vaccination. If in any doubt, consult with the clinician responsible for prescribing or monitoring the individual's anticoagulant therapy.