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18 August 2021

Introduction of Shingrix® for immunocompromised individuals for whom Zostavax® is clinically contraindicated.

Dear Colleague,

From 1 September 2021, GPs should offer the non-live shingles vaccine Shingrix® to all those who are eligible for shingles vaccination but are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status. This is based on the recommendation made by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

In line with the current requirements of the shingles programme, the vaccine will be offered via a proactive call to those becoming eligible at 70 years old and will be offered opportunistically or if requested for those over 70 years until the age of 80.

The introduction of this inactivated shingles vaccine follows the recommendation made by the JCVI¹ that Shingrix® should be offered to all immunocompromised people for whom Zostavax® is contraindicated but who are eligible for vaccination under the current programme, so that they can gain a similar level of protection to those who are not immunocompromised. The Committee noted that vaccination in this group was particularly important, due to the higher incidence of herpes zoster. This advice was consistent with the original recommendation for vaccination of all adults aged 70 to 79 years with herpes zoster vaccine². There is now sufficient supply of the Shingrix® vaccine to be able to implement the JCVI recommendation.

Key points about the change to the programme:

- Shingrix® will be able to be ordered online via the ImmForm website for those who are eligible for shingles vaccination but are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status. Shingrix® should be used for those who are eligible from 1 September 2021
- Shingrix® requires a 2-dose schedule, with the second dose administered from 2 months following the first dose
- it is important that Shingrix® is given only to those who are clinically contraindicated for Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status in order to have sufficient supply for those who need to receive it
- GPs should continue to offer Zostavax® to eligible patients who are not contraindicated
- any individual who reaches their 80th birthday is no longer eligible for a shingles vaccination due to the reducing efficacy of the Zostavax® vaccine as age increases. This reflects the 2010 recommendation made by JCVI². However, where an individual has turned 80 years of age following their first dose of Shingrix®, a second dose should be provided to complete the 2-dose schedule for Shingrix®
- further detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals relating to this change is set out in **Annexe A**
- details on ImmForm vaccine coverage data collection are set out in **Annexe B**

If you have any queries about this letter please contact immunisation@phe.gov.uk.

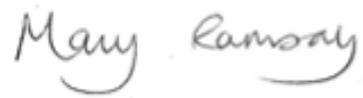
Ongoing efforts are needed to identify and vaccinate all Zostavax® eligible individuals who have not been vaccinated to ensure a continuing reduction in the number of cases of this condition. We encourage providers to take every opportunity to offer shingles vaccination to eligible patients throughout the year to help to protect as many older people as possible.

We are grateful for your continued support of the shingles immunisation programme.

¹ [The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation minute of the meeting on 07 February 2018](#)

² [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation statement on varicella and herpes zoster vaccines, 29 March 2010](#)

Yours faithfully,



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Annexe A – Detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals

1. This guidance is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)¹, the UK's independent advisory committee of immunisation experts. Full detailed guidance will be available in the updated [chapter 28a](#) on Shingles (herpes zoster) included in 'the Green Book' (Immunisation against infectious disease)³.

Timing

2. From 1 September 2021, GPs should offer the non-live shingles vaccine Shingrix® to all those who are eligible for shingles vaccination but for whom Zostavax® is clinically contraindicated due to their immunocompromised status.
 - Shingrix® requires a 2-dose schedule, with the second dose administered from 2 months (and ideally within 6 months) following the first dose. Those who present more than 6 months after the first dose can receive a single completing dose at any stage in line with the Green Book advice
 - Shingrix® can be administered alongside flu and the pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV) vaccines
 - as is the case for Zostavax®, patients can be offered shingles vaccination (with a suitable product) opportunistically at any point in the year as they are or become of eligible age (on or after their 70th birthday)
 - as for Zostavax®, any individual who reaches their 80th birthday is no longer eligible for a shingles vaccination
 - however, where an individual has turned 80 years of age following their first dose of Shingrix®, a second dose should be provided to complete the 2-dose schedule

Patient Group Directions

3. A Shingrix® vaccine [patient group direction \(PGD\)](#)⁴ from Public Health England will be produced for NHS England and NHS Improvement Areas to adopt and authorise for their commissioned services.

Vaccine supply

4. Shingrix® will be available to order online via the [ImmForm website](#)⁵ for individuals for whom Zostavax® is clinically contraindicated. See the [ImmForm helpsheet](#)⁶ for information on registering for an ImmForm account. Ordering controls may be in place to enable Public Health England (PHE) to balance incoming supply with demand. Details of ordering controls will be available on ImmForm and in Vaccine Update in due course. Please make sure that stocks of shingles vaccine are rotated in fridges so that wastage is minimised. It is recommended that practices hold no more than 2 weeks' worth of stock.

³ [The Green Book chapter 28a on Shingles \(herpes zoster\)](#)

⁴ [Patient Group Direction for Shingrix® vaccine](#)

⁵ [ImmForm website](#)

⁶ [ImmForm registration helpsheet](#)

Identifying eligible patients

5. GPs should offer the non-live shingles vaccine Shingrix® to all those who are eligible for shingles vaccination but are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status.
6. The section on contraindications for Zostavax® in the [Shingles \(herpes zoster\) Green Book chapter](#) is being updated following a review by an Expert Working Group and will be published before the vaccine is introduced in September.
7. Where GPs undertake searches for eligible patients, search criteria should be adjusted wherever possible to ensure patients eligible for vaccination but for whom Zostavax® is contraindicated are included for vaccination with Shingrix® from September 2021 and are invited for their second dose in good time.
8. In relation to the introduction of Shingrix®, we suggest GPs can search their systems for any eligible patients aged 70 to 79 years who have not received Zostavax and
 - a. Have a code for contra-indicated for shingles vaccine (Herpes zoster vaccination contraindicated (situation) – 868531000000103)or
 - b. Another code for immunosuppression (as used to identify those eligible for flu or COVID-19 vaccination).

These patients can then be contacted or, for those outside of the call/recall cohort, flagged for opportunistic vaccination with Shingrix® when they present at the surgery for another purpose, or request vaccination, at a later date.

At the time of presentation for vaccination the patient's immunosuppressed status should be checked against the new green book chapter in case there has been a change and they are now indicated for Zostavax®.

SNOMED codes

9. A list of SNOMED codes to assist with identifying patients who are indicated for Shingrix® vaccine will be made available at the following link before September: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-vaccination-guidance-for-healthcare-professionals>
10. SNOMED codes and GP IT systems will be updated to allow the recording of the 2 doses of Shingrix® in electronic health records from September 2021. The recommended SNOMED codes for recording administration of Shingrix® vaccine doses in electronic patient records are as follows:

	SNOMED ConceptID	SNOMED DescriptionID
Shingrix® vaccine dose 1	1326101000000105	Administration of first dose of vaccine product containing only Human alphaherpesvirus 3 antigen for shingles (procedure)
Shingrix® vaccine dose 2	1326111000000107	Administration of second dose of vaccine product containing only Human alphaherpesvirus 3 antigen for shingles (procedure)

Funding and service arrangements

11. From 1 April 2021, the provision of vaccination and immunisation services became an essential service for all routine NHS-funded vaccinations, as first set out in February 2020's Update to the GP contract agreement 2020/21-2023/24 and as communicated in the letter '[Update on vaccination and immunisation changes for 2021/22](#)'.⁷ Annex B of the letter includes the expectation of the introduction of this alternative vaccine for those who are unsuitable for vaccination with Zostavax®. Practices will be able to administer Shingrix® under the GMS contract as it becomes available. All payment details are set out in the Statement of Financial Entitlements from 1 April 2021.
12. The shingles routine and catch-up programme requires a call for vaccination for patients becoming eligible at 70 years of age, and vaccination opportunistically, or if requested, until the age of 80 years. This applies for both Zostavax® and Shingrix® vaccines.

Information for healthcare professionals and patients

13. The [Shingles \(herpes zoster\) Green Book chapter](#) is being updated and will be published before the vaccine is introduced in September.
14. Healthcare professional information and [guidance](#) for the shingles vaccination programme will be updated to include the offer of Shingrix® for eligible patients and will be available on the [Shingles vaccination programme webpage](#).
15. A training slide set will also be made available on the [Shingles vaccination programme webpage](#).⁸
16. Updated public information materials including [the patient leaflet](#), invitation postcard, [poster](#) and social media graphics will be available on the [Shingles vaccination programme webpage](#) and to order from the [Health Publications website](#)⁹ before September 2021.

Black Triangle Scheme

17. Shingrix® is part of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) [Black Triangle Scheme](#)¹⁰ for new medicines and vaccines to allow rapid identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report all suspected adverse reactions via the [Yellow Card Scheme](#) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

⁷ [Update on vaccination and immunisation changes for 2021/22 letter to GPs in England, regional directors of primary care and public health and CCGs, dated 10 March 2021](#)

⁸ [Webpage for the shingles vaccination programme](#)

⁹ [Health Publications](#)

¹⁰ [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Black Triangle Scheme](#)

Annexe B - Vaccine coverage data collection

Dose 1 and dose 2 coverage of the Shingrix vaccination will be collected as part of the shingles immunisation programme. GP practice-level shingles vaccine coverage will be based on data automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm website (a website used by PHE and NHS to collect data on vaccine coverage and provide vaccine ordering facilities for the NHS) on a quarterly basis.

In 2021 data will be collected on the following:

Denominator:

The number of individuals aged 70 to 79 (inclusive) years old registered at a GP practice who have a SNOMED code that they are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status.

Numerator:

The number of individuals aged 70 to 79 (inclusive) years old registered at a GP practice who have a SNOMED code that they are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status and have the following SNOMED codes:

- (a) 1326101000000105 (indicating receipt of first dose of Shingrix®)
- (b) 1326111000000107 (indicating receipt of second dose of Shingrix®)

Plus

The number of individuals aged 80 years old registered at a GP practice who have a SNOMED code that they are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status and have the following SNOMED codes:

- (a) 1326101000000105 (indicating receipt of first dose of Shingrix®) **when aged 79**
- (b) 1326111000000107 (indicating receipt of second dose of Shingrix®) **when aged 80**

The data will be validated and analysed by PHE to check data completeness, identify and query any anomalous results and describe epidemiological trends.