

Dear Colleagues

SHINGLES VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2024/25 – ENDURING OFFER

1. Further to some recent enquiries, this letter is to confirm cohorts, the priority order of eligibility and enduring offer arrangements recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
2. Although shingles can occur at any age, the risk and severity of shingles and its complications increases with age and is high in individuals who are severely immunosuppressed.

2024/25 Programme Eligibility and Priority

3. Based on JCVI advice, eligibility and the order that should be followed for the programme is:
 - Vaccination of those aged 50 years and over who are severely immunosuppressed as per the [Green Book](#) definition **who have not yet received Shingrix vaccine**.
 - Individuals aged 50 years and over anticipating immunosuppressive therapy should be assessed for vaccine eligibility by their treating clinician before starting treatment and referred as appropriate according to local pathways.

New advice from the JCVI – change in health status

- Individuals who have received Zostavax previously including as part of the routine national programme and **who have since become severely immunosuppressed** should be offered two doses of Shingrix vaccine at a minimum interval of 8 weeks apart provided they are aged 50 years or older (no upper age limit). There is no reason to leave any interval after previous Zostavax vaccine for this group.
- Vaccination of 70 and 65 year olds (defined by the patient's age on 1 September 2024).

From Chief Medical Officer for Scotland
Interim Chief Nursing Officer
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Professor Sir Gregor Smith
Anne Armstrong
Professor Alison Strath

11 February 2025

SGHD/CMO/2025/1

Addresses

For action

NHS Board Immunisation Coordinators
NHS Board Medical Directors
Nurse Directors, NHS Boards
Directors of Public Health
Infectious Disease Consultants
CPHMs
Consultant Physicians

For information

NHS Board Chief Executives
Directors of Pharmacy
Public Health Scotland
NHS 24
General Practitioners
Scottish General Practitioners Committee

Further Enquiries to:

Policy Issues

Vaccination Policy Team
immunisationpolicy@gov.scot

Medical Issues

Dr Lorna Willocks
Senior Medical Officer
St Andrew's House
Lorna.Willocks@gov.scot

PGD/Pharmaceutical and Vaccine Supply Issues

Barry Melia
Public Health Scotland
barry.melia@phs.scot

- Enduring offer for those aged 66 years and those aged 71 to 79 years who have not previously been vaccinated *but remain eligible* (defined by patient's age on 1 September 2024). Please also see paragraph 4 below for further detail.
- Vaccination of those aged 18 years and over who have received a stem cell transplant as part of their overall treatment plan. This includes adult recipients of allogeneic transplant, autologous transplant, a CAR-T or similar therapy.

Enduring Offer for those previously eligible

4. NHS Boards are **not** required to actively send out appointment letters or reminders to individuals who remain eligible. This includes those aged 66 years and those aged 71 to 79 years who have not previously been vaccinated, but remain eligible (defined by patient's age on 1 September 2024). Individuals in these groups seeking shingles vaccination may approach the NHS Board directly. A simple age [calculator](#) is available for people to check eligibility and there will be information provided on NHS Inform.
5. Those who have been previously eligible will remain eligible until their 80th birthday. Where an individual has turned 80 years of age following their first dose of Shingrix, a second dose should be provided before the individual's 81st birthday to complete the course.
6. Further detailed programme information is available in the [Green Book](#) and in our previously published communications [CMO \(2024\)14](#) and [CMO \(2023\)11](#).

Reminder: Shingles programme and Zostavax

7. Shingrix is now the only vaccine available for this programme. We have been advised that the final batch of Zostavax supplied by ImmForm for the national shingles vaccination programme expired on 31 October 2024. **Any remaining stock held in vaccine fridges must now be discarded.**
8. Please ensure that all references to Zostavax administration are removed from locally stored documents and training materials.
9. The JCVI issued a [statement](#) in November 2024, setting out its advice for the expansion of the shingles vaccination programme and further information will be made available in due course.
10. Finally, we would like to thank you for your professionalism and support in delivering this important vaccination programme to the people of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Gregor Smith

Anne Armstrong

Alison Strath

Professor Sir Gregor Smith
**Chief Medical Officer
Scotland**

Anne Armstrong
Interim Chief Nursing Officer

Professor Alison Strath
**Chief Pharmaceutical for
Officer**