

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 24/2014

For Action:

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health & Social
Care Board/HSC Trusts/NIAS
GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for onward
distribution to practice staff*)

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 24/2014
Date: 7 August 2014

Dear Colleague

SHINGLES VACCINATION PROGRAMME – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2014/15

ACTION REQUIRED

Chief Executives must ensure that this information is drawn to the attention of all staff involved in elderly care and vaccination programmes, to enable them to respond accordingly.

The HSCB must ensure that this information is cascaded to all General Practitioners immediately.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the eligibility criteria for the 2014/15 shingles vaccine programme which will come into effect from 1 September 2014. The 2013/14 campaign continues until 31 August and patients who meet the eligibility criteria for the 2013/14 programme, i.e. aged 70 or 79 on 1 September 2013 irrespective of their age now, should continue to be called in for vaccination.

Important Points to Note

- From October 2014 the vaccine should be given to all patients aged 70, 78 and 79 years on 1 September 2014 only (see Annex A for cohort ranges).
- Those individuals now aged 71 years of age, who had been eligible during 2013/14, remain eligible to receive the vaccine during 2014/15.
- Those people now aged 80 years of age, who had been eligible during 2013/14, are NOT eligible to receive the vaccine during 2014/15
- The Shingles vaccine is expensive and remains in short supply with some stock having a short expiry date. GPs should ensure they only order enough vaccine to meet their weekly needs.

- An updated Green Book chapter will be available online shortly, and healthcare professionals should familiarise themselves with the changes from the 2013/14 guidance before beginning the vaccination programme.
2. In 2013 the Department introduced the routine vaccination of people aged 70 years old to provide protection against shingles and a catch-up immunisation programme of people aged 79.

Details of programme during 2014/15

3. During the 2014/15 programme the shingles vaccine should be offered to everyone who is **70 years of age** on the 1 September 2014 (routine cohort) and everyone who is **78 or 79 years of age** on the 1 September 2014 (catch-up cohorts). See table 1 below for dates of birth.

Table 1 – Cohorts for routine and catch-up shingles programme (1 Sept 2014 to 31 Aug 2015)

Year	Cohort	Cohort definition	Born from date	Born to date
2014/15	Routine	Age 70 on 1 September 2014	02/09/1943	01/09/1944
2014/15	Catch-up	Age 78 or 79 on 1 September 2014	02/09/1934	01/09/1936

4. Those individuals now aged 71 years of age, who had been eligible during 2013/14 (i.e were born between 02/09/1942 - 01/09/1943) and who did not receive the vaccine during 2013/14 remain eligible to receive the vaccine during 2014/15.
5. Those people now aged 80 years of age, who had been eligible during 2013/14 (i.e were born between 02/09/1933 - 01/09/1934) are NOT eligible to receive the vaccine during 2014/15. This is because the vaccine effectiveness diminishes with age and so it is not recommended for people aged 80 years or older.
6. As per the arrangements last year, while the programme will officially begin on 1 October 2014, the shingles vaccine can routinely be given at the same time as the seasonal flu vaccine from September onwards, once GPs have received their supply of the vaccines. The shingles vaccine can be given separately if required up to the end of August 2015.
7. GPs should ensure that they will have the fridge capacity to store the additional vaccine required. The order form for Zostavax® vaccine was issued with the seasonal flu HSS letter, see attached link to the order form: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hss-md-19-2014-order-form.docx> **GPs should only order sufficient vaccine to meet their weekly need.** Effective management of vaccines throughout the supply chain is essential to reduce vaccine wastage. Local protocols should be in place to reduce vaccine wastage to a minimum. Even small percentage reductions in vaccine wastage will have a major impact on the financing of vaccine supplies.

Funding and service arrangements

8. A payment of £7.63 will be made in respect of each registered patient of the contractor who has received the Shingles Vaccine during the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015, who on the 1st September 2014 attained the age of 70 years.
9. In regard to the Catch up service a payment of £7.63 will be made in respect of each registered patient of the contractor who has received the shingles vaccine during the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015, who on the 1st September 2014 attained the age of 78 or 79 years but not 80 years.
10. In regard to those individuals who had been 70 years of age during the 2013/14 programme, a payment of £7.63 will be made in respect of each registered patient of the contractor who has received the Shingles Vaccine during the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015, who on the 1st September 2014 attained the age of 71 years of age.

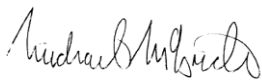
Green Book

11. An updated chapter on shingles will be available on line shortly. There have been several changes since the 2013/14 programme and therefore it is recommended that healthcare professionals should familiarise themselves with the updated guidance before beginning the vaccination programme

Conclusion

12. Shingles is a significant cause of morbidity in older people. We do not underestimate the additional work brought about by this vaccination programme, but we hope colleagues will recognise the significant benefits the vaccine will bring to their patients and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in delivering the programme in 2013/14 and for their continuing hard work.

Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer



MRS CHARLOTTE MCARDLE
Chief Nursing Officer



DR MARK TIMONEY
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

This letter is available on the DHSSPS website at

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/professional/cmo_communications.htm

CIRCULATION LIST

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Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency
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Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health & Social Care Board
Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts
Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB
Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health & Social Care Board (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)
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Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all relevant staff*)
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community and District Nurses*)
Professor Linda Johnston, Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery, QUB
Dr Owen Barr, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster
RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)
Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

SHINGLES VACCINATION

Cohorts for vaccination in 2014/15

Routine programme

Age 70 on 1 September 2014

(Birth date range 02/09/1943 -
01/09/1944)

Anyone who was born between 02/09/1942 - 01/09/1943 and who did not receive the vaccine during 2013/14 remains eligible to receive the vaccine

Catch-up programme

Age 78 or 79 on 1 September 2014

(Birth date range 02/09/1934 -
01/09/1936)