

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 10/2019

For Action:

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social Care Board/HSC Trusts/NIAS
GP Medical Advisers, Health and 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)10/2019
Date: 29 May 2019

Dear Colleague

SHINGLES VACCINATION PROGRAMME – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2019/20

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.

Important Points to Note

- From autumn 2019 the vaccine should be given to all patients who are aged **70 and 78** years on **1 September 2019** (see Annex A for cohort ranges).
- While the shingles vaccine is normally given at the same time to eligible patients as they receive their seasonal flu vaccine, the programme runs from 1 September 2019 until 31 August 2020 and the shingles vaccine should continue to be offered to eligible patients throughout the year.
- Those individuals now aged between 71-76 or 79 years of age, who had been eligible during the first six years of the programmes, remain eligible to receive the vaccine during 2019/20, if they have not yet received it.
- Those people now aged 80 years of age, who had been eligible during 2018/19, are **NO LONGER** eligible to receive the vaccine during the 2019/20 programme, i.e. from 1 September 2019. This is because the vaccine is less effective in people aged 80 years of age or more.

- The Shingles vaccine is expensive and GPs should note that some stock will have expiry dates of November and December 2019, therefore GPs should ensure they only order enough vaccine to meet their weekly needs.
- Healthcare professionals should familiarise themselves with the latest guidance in the Green Book before beginning the vaccination programme.

Introduction

1. The 2018/19 vaccination programme continues until 31 August 2019 and we would urge GPs to continue to call all patients in for vaccination, who meet the eligibility criteria for the 2018/19 programme, irrespective of their age now. This is **particularly important for anyone who was aged 79 on 1 September 2018**, as after the 1 September 2019 those people now aged 80 years of age, who had been eligible during 2018/19, will no longer be eligible to receive the vaccine during the 2019/20 programme.

Details of programme during 2019/20

2. During the 2019/2020 programme the shingles vaccine should be offered to everyone who is **70 years of age** on the 1 September 2019 (routine cohort) and everyone who is **78 years of age** on the 1 September 2019 (catch-up cohort). See table 1 below for dates of birth.

Table 1 – Cohorts for routine and catch-up shingles programme (1 Sept 2019 to 31 Aug 2020)

Year	Cohort	Cohort definition	Born from date	Born to date
2019/20	Routine	Age 70 on 1 September 2019	02/09/1948	01/09/1949
2019/20	Catch-up	Age 78 on 1 September 2019	02/09/1940	01/09/1941

3. Those individuals aged between 71-76 or 79 years of age, who had been eligible during the first five years of the programme (i.e. were born between 02/09/1942 - 01/09/1948 or 02/09/39 - 01/09/40) and who have not already received the vaccine remain eligible to receive the vaccine during 2019/2020.
4. Those people now aged 80 years of age, who had been eligible during 2018/19 (i.e. were born between 02/09/1938 - 01/09/1939) are NO LONGER eligible to receive the vaccine from 1 September 2019. This is because the vaccine is less effective in people aged 80 years of age or more.
5. As per the arrangements last year, while the shingles vaccine can routinely be given at the same time as the seasonal flu vaccine, GPs can begin inviting patients to receive their shingles vaccination from September onwards. **The shingles vaccine can and should also be given separately, if required, up to the end of August 2020.**
6. GPs should ensure that they will have the fridge capacity to store the vaccine required. Details of how to order Zostavax® vaccine online during 2019/20

will be issued with the seasonal flu HSS letter which is due to be issued shortly.

- 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

- A payment of £7.64 will be made in respect of each registered patient of the contractor who has received the Shingles Vaccine during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, who on the 1 September 2019 attained the age of 70 years.
- In regard to the catch-up service, a payment of £7.64 will be made in respect of each registered patient of the contractor who has received the shingles vaccine during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, who on the 1 September 2019 attained the age of 78 years.
- In regard to those individuals who had been eligible during the first five years of the programme but remain unvaccinated, a payment of £7.64 will be made in respect of each registered patient of the contractor who has received the Shingles Vaccine during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, who on the 1 September 2019 attained the age of 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 or 79 years of age.

Green Book

- Healthcare professionals should familiarise themselves with the latest guidance before beginning the vaccination programme, particularly the guidance on shingles vaccine and immunosuppression.

Conclusion

- Shingles is a significant cause of morbidity in older people. We appreciate the workload within GP Practices, 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 2018/19 and for their continuing hard work.

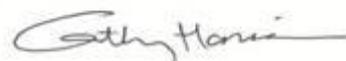
Yours sincerely



Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



**Prof Charlotte
McArdle**
Chief Nursing Officer



Cathy Harrison
Acting Chief
Pharmaceutical Officer

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CIRCULATION LIST

- Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff*)
- Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency
- Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency
- Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social Care Board, (*for onward distribution to all Community Pharmacies*)
- Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts
- Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB
- Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health and Social Care Board (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)
- Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all relevant staff*)
- Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses*)
- 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
- University Health Contacts

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This letter is available on the Department of Health website at
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>
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SHINGLES VACCINATION

Cohorts for vaccination in 2019/20

Routine programme

Age 70 on 1 September 2019

Birth date range 02/09/1948 - 01/09/1949

Catch-up programme

Age 78 on 1 September 2019

Birth date range 02/09/1940– 01/09/1941

Anyone who was born between 02/09/1942 - 01/09/1948 or 02/09/39 - 01/09/40 and who has not already received the vaccine remains eligible to receive the vaccine