

# SHINGLES VACCINATION PROGRAM

## Information for NSW General Practitioners & Aboriginal Medical Services

*Please distribute this information to all staff*

1. Zostavax® shingles vaccine is now available to order for adults aged 70 -79 years of age
2. Ensure you access current advice from the online version of the Australian Immunisation Handbook (updated August 2016)
3. From 1 October 2016, the ACIR has become the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and is accepting data on vaccinations for all age groups
4. Vaccinations with Zostavax® should be notified to the AIR via your usual means

### Summary

- A single dose of Zostavax® is free for all adults 70 years of age from 1 November 2016. A catch up dose will be funded for adults aged 71-79 years until 31 October 2021.
- Zostavax® is safe for **most** older people, including those with common chronic diseases, such as arthritis, hypertension, chronic renal failure, diabetes, COPD or other similar conditions.
- Its use is **contraindicated** for persons with **significant immunocompromise** due to a primary or acquired medical condition or medical treatment, or with anaphylaxis to any component. Medical treatment that is a contraindication to Zostavax® includes high dose steroids and high dose antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).
- Zostavax® may be co-administered with other live vaccines (eg Yellow Fever) or after a 28 day interval. It can be given **at any time** in relation to inactivated vaccines (e.g. influenza and pneumococcal).
- The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) has now become the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and from 1 October 2016, will accept data on all National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines and other common and travel vaccines (eg Havrix, Stamaril) administered to people **of all ages**.
- Providers should ensure that they are using the latest version of medical software (eg Medical Director®, Best Practice) to ensure that data uploads to the AIR.
- Providers are required to submit vaccination data to the AIR on all Zostavax® doses administered. At this stage it is not known if a booster dose will be required, but if surveillance data indicates a booster is necessary in the future, vaccine recipients will be able to be recalled using the AIR.
- Zostavax® vaccine may be ordered now via the online vaccine ordering system at <https://nsw.csldirect.com.au>

### Further Information:

- Contact your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**
- NSW Health Website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/>
- Australian Immunisation Handbook  
<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home~handbook10part4~handbook10-4-24>
- RACGP Twilight online: shingles vaccination update  
<http://www.racgp.org.au/education/courses/activitylist/activity/?id=44619>

Yours sincerely



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