

## **Shingles vaccination programmes 2013-14 FAQs**

These frequently asked questions (FAQs) relating to the shingles and shingles catch-up vaccination programme in England have been agreed with NHS Employers, NHS England and the General Practitioners Committee of the BMA.

### **1. What is the age range for the shingles and shingles catch-up vaccination programmes?**

The age range for the shingles and shingles catch-up vaccination programmes are patients who are aged 70 or 79 years on 1 September 2013, respectively. This means that all patients aged either 70 or 79 years on 1 September 2013 will be included in the vaccination programme cohort even if they turn 71 or 80 during the vaccination timeframe of 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014. Essentially a patient who is 70 or 79 years of age on 1 September is eligible to be vaccinated even if they turn 71 or 80 on the 2 September.

The DOB range would be:

Shingles programme - 2 Sept 1942 - 1 Sept 1943

Shingles catch-up programme - 2 Sept 1933 - 1 Sept 1934

### **2. If a patient is 70 or 79 on 1 September 2013 but turns 71 or 80 before they next visit the practice (i.e. during the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014), are they still eligible for vaccination?**

Yes. The 'denominator' for these enhanced services is all patients aged 70 or 79 on 1 September 2013, respectively and the specification does not dictate how long after the 1 September the vaccine needs to be administered (as it is to be done opportunistically). Therefore, any patient turning 71 or 80 after the 1 September 2013 is eligible under this programme.

### **3. If a patient requests a shingles vaccination but they do not meet the age range criteria for these enhanced services, can they still be vaccinated?**

Patients who are not included in either patient cohort for the shingles or shingles catch-up programmes who request vaccination may be vaccinated, at the practice's discretion. However, practices are advised that this should only occur where eligible patients have already been vaccinated or offered the vaccination and the practice is using up their left over stocks. If a practice chooses to vaccinate patients not included in the eligible patient cohort, then these patients would not be eligible for payment under the enhanced service specification.

### **4. Can the shingles vaccine be administered at the same time as pneumococcal?**

Yes. The shingles vaccination can be given at the same time as pneumococcal for those patients who are eligible for both vaccinations.

### **5. Can the shingles vaccine be administered at the same time as seasonal flu?**

Yes, the shingles vaccine can also be given at the same time as inactivated influenza vaccination. If the Shingle vaccine is given at the same time as influenza vaccination, care should be taken to ensure that the appropriate route of injection is used for all the vaccinations and to check there are no contraindications to administering a live vaccine to

individuals in at-risk groups presenting for seasonal influenza vaccination. This should ideally be given at the same time as other live vaccines. If live vaccines cannot be administered simultaneously, a four week interval is recommended.

**6. Can health care assistants (HCAs) administer vaccinations for the shingles programmes?**

Yes, suitably trained HCAs can provide vaccinations under patient specific directions (PSD)s, but ultimately the responsibility lies with the prescriber. As long as individuals are named and assessed for provision of this service and with the governance emphasis on training and competency of HCAs.

**7. Why does the price differ for some of the 2013/14 vaccination programmes i.e. the shingles programme has an IOS fee of £7.63 and the shingles catch-up programme has an IOS fee of £7.64?**

The prices for these programmes differ due to the timings and process for setting or agreeing the vaccination programmes.