

Shingles Vaccination

Zostavax®

Zostavax® is indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster and the painful complications of herpes zoster (shingles). Prevention of shingles prevents acute shingles-related pain and the risk of chronic pain, known as post-herpetic neuralgia. It is not used as treatment during an episode of shingles or to treat post-herpetic neuralgia.

From 1 April 2018:

One dose of Zostavax will be funded for adults aged 65 years.

A 'catch-up' programme will be available for the first two years, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020, for people aged from 66–80 years inclusively.

Funded vaccine doses will only be available through general practice.

Zostavax should not be given to:

Individuals with current leukaemia, lymphoma, or other bone/marrow/lymphatic cancers.

Individuals with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or other medical condition causing cellular immunodeficiency as well as patients on high doses of steroids (Prednisone)

Individuals with tuberculosis (TB).

Anyone with severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of herpes zoster virus vaccine or a component of the vaccine.

Vaccine effectiveness

Immunisation may not protect every person. In those who develop protection after immunisation, the duration of protection after vaccination against herpes zoster has been shown to be around 5 years.

The risk of shingles increases with advancing age. Similarly, the ability of immunisation to prevent shingles decreases with advancing age.

Age when immunised	Number of individuals protected against shingles
50–59 years	7 in every 10 immunised
60–69 years	6–7 in every 10 immunised
70–79 years	4 in every 10 immunised
80 years and older	1–2 in every 10 immunised

Waikanae Health will not offer the Shingles Vaccine together with the Flu Vaccine due to various logistical reasons and time restraints.

The funded Shingles vaccine will be available here from June 2018 onwards.

We will then be offering vaccination clinics and scheduled appointments with your dedicated Nursing Team.

Thank you for your understanding and your patience!