

To: • GP Practices  
cc. • ICB Primary Care Leads

Public Health Commissioning  
Hampshire and Thames Valley  
South East Region  
Oakley Road  
Southampton  
SO16 4GX

**12 April 2023**

Dear Colleague,

**RE: Changes to the NHS Shingles Vaccination Programme**

As I am sure you are aware, following the recommendation from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation, the Department of Health and Social Care has made a decision to implement changes to the NHS shingles vaccination programme from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

These changes concern both the age cohort for eligibility and the type of vaccine offered. As the vaccine type has changed, the number of doses is also changing.

The details of the changes and the phases of implementation were set out in the NHS England letter of 6 March 2023 'Changes to the GP Contract in 2023/24' - see link below. The section on 'Shingles' appears on page 9 in Annex A and has been replicated below for ease of reference.

**[Changes to the GP Contract in 2023/24 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk)**

As set out in the contract letter, the changes will take place in two five-year stages, the first of which starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. In order to assist you, we have created the attached flowchart that summarises the changes in the first phase. The flowchart can also be used as an aide memoire for your team.

Further information and guidance will be made available to GP practices in due course.

Please cascade the flowchart to relevant members of your team. We thank you for your efforts in making these changes to the programme. For any queries in relation to this change please contact us, as usual, by emailing [england.hiow-sit@nhs.net](mailto:england.hiow-sit@nhs.net)

Any contractual/payment queries should be sent as normal to [england.htvphcontracting@nhs.net](mailto:england.htvphcontracting@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,



**Clare Simpson FFPH**

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c.c. Nikki Osborne, Head of Public Health Commissioning  
[england.htvphcontracting@nhs.net](mailto:england.htvphcontracting@nhs.net)

## Extract from 'Changes to the GP Contract in 2023/24 Annex A'

### Shingles

- The JCVI advised in 2018 that Shingrix had been shown to be effective and cost-effective, recommending its use in the NHS Shingles Programme for individuals for whom the live Zostavax was contraindicated. This change was implemented in the programme in September 2021.
- In [2019 JCVI recommended](#) the replacement of Zostavax with Shingrix and the expansion of the cohorts in the Shingles Vaccination Programme. JCVI have recognised that there may be more clinical benefit from starting Shingles vaccinations at a lower age, with modelling indicating that a greater number of cases would be prevented with vaccination at 60 years for immunocompetent and 50 years for immunocompromised.
- From 1 September 2023 changes to the Shingles Programme to implement the JCVI recommendations will be as follows:
  - replacement of Zostavax with the 2-dose Shingrix vaccine as Zostavax goes out of production.
  - 2-dose Shingrix vaccine for the current 70-79-year-old cohort with a period of 26 weeks to 52 weeks between doses following the depletion of Zostavax.
  - expansion of the immunocompromised cohort to offer 2-dose Shingrix to individuals aged 50 years and over with a period between doses of 8 weeks to 26 weeks.
  - expansion of the immunocompetent cohort to offer 2-dose Shingrix routinely to individuals aged 60 years and over with a period between doses of 26 weeks to 52 weeks, remaining an opportunistic offer up to and including 79 years of age.
- The expansion of the immunocompetent cohort will be implemented over two five-year stages as follows:
  - first five-year stage (1 September 2023 to 31 August 2028): Shingrix will be offered to those turning 70 and those turning 65 years of age in each of the five years as they become eligible.
  - second five-year stage (1 September 2028 to 31 August 2033): Shingrix will be offered to those turning 65 and those turning 60 years of age in each of the five years as they become eligible.
- Additionally, practice call/recall for the immunocompromised and immunocompetent cohorts as they become eligible for the programme will be implemented from 1 September 2023, as well as catch-up call/recall for the newly eligible immunocompromised 50-69-year-old cohort.
- Shingles can be delivered at any time during the year thus enabling practices to manage timing for when the individual is invited and can also be opportunistically delivered if clinically appropriate when an individual attends the practice for another reason.
- The Shingles GPES extraction will be updated to accommodate these changes.
- Further information on the programme changes and management of the immunocompetent cohort expansion will be provided in due course.