

NHS England – HIOW Screening and Immunisation Team  
5-minute update – Issue 43 – April 2023

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Please note that from 1 June 2022, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Public Health Screening and Immunisation Team generic email address changed to **[england.hiow-SIT@nhs.net](mailto:england.hiow-SIT@nhs.net)**. This email address should be used for queries regarding the screening and immunisation programmes.

## Immunisation Programme Updates

### Changes to the Shingles Programme

**From 1 September 2023**, Zostavax will be replaced by 2 doses of Shingrix vaccine and there will be changes to the eligibility for shingles vaccine.

The immunocompromised cohort will be extended to those aged 50 years and over and should be offered 2 doses of Shingrix with a period between doses of 8 to 26 weeks.

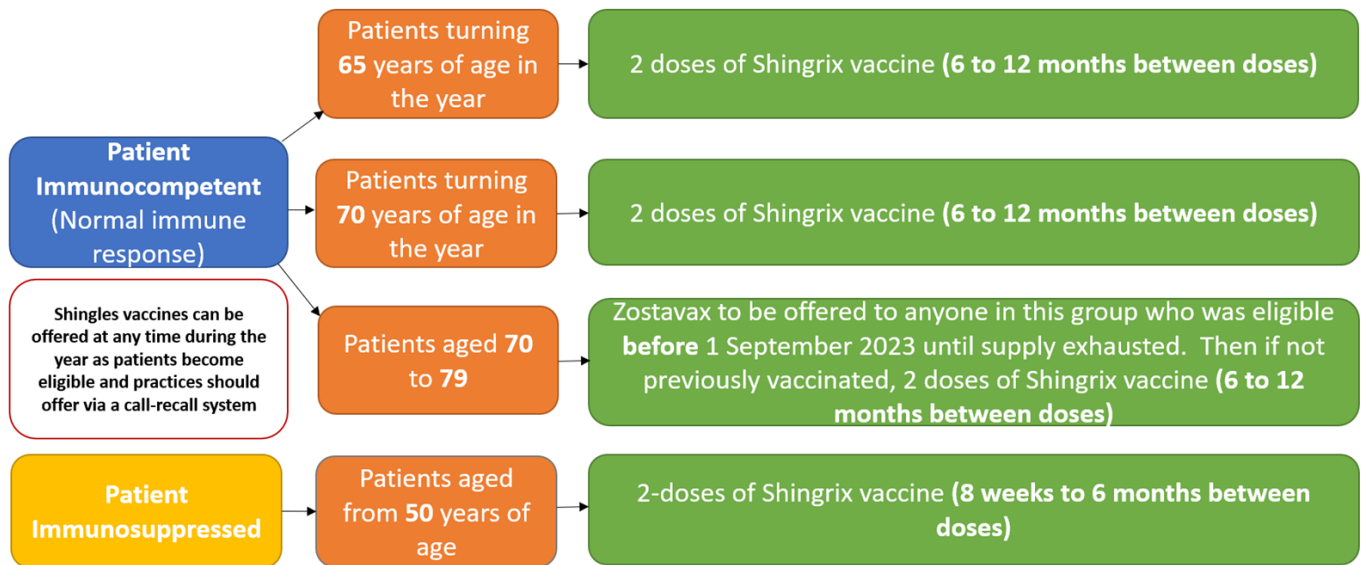
The immunocompetent cohort will be extended to those aged 60 years and over with a period between doses of 26 to 52 weeks. The expansion of the immunocompetent cohort will take place over 2 5-year stages, with the first 5-year stage offering vaccine to those turning 65 and 70 years of age in each of the 5 years as they become eligible.

The current 70- to 79-year-old cohort should be offered 2 doses of Shingrix with a period of 26 and 52 weeks between doses, following the depletion of Zostavax. Zostavax should be offered initially to those aged 70 to 79 years old before 1st September 2023 until Zostavax supplies have been exhausted.

A summary of the eligible groups and vaccine schedules to be offered from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 can be found at the top of the next page.

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.



### Men B and PCV Catch Up Doses

Following a number of queries regarding catch up schedules for children new to the practice, please note that Men B and PCV13 vaccines should not be offered after the age of 2 years to healthy children. Men B should, however, be offered to patients with asplenia, splenic dysfunction or complement disorders if first diagnosed after the age of 2 years. Further information can be found in Green Book Chapter 7 (page 6) here: [The Green book of immunisation - chapter 7 - Immunisation of immunocompromised individuals \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-of-immunisation-chapter-7-immunisation-of-immunocompromised-individuals)

### SCID Results and Rotavirus Vaccination

It is important that SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency) screening results are checked for babies before administering the first dose of rotavirus vaccine at 8 weeks of age, due to the risk of these patients receiving a live vaccine. Although SCID screening has not yet been implemented in this area as part of newborn bloodspot screening, there may be children who have come from other areas and have been offered SCID screening.

### BCG Eligibility Changes

Please note that, in 2022, that WHO updated their estimates for high risk Tuberculosis countries here: [Tuberculosis by country: rates per 100,000 people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-by-country-rates-per-100-000-people)

The document is still titled as 2020 data, but there have been changes to eligibility for BCG vaccination based on this updated data, and therefore we ask that anyone referring a baby for BCG vaccine accesses the document to update any eligibility lists within their workplace to ensure referrals are appropriately made.

### European Immunisations Week

This year's European Immunisation Week kicked off a 'year of immunisation', in which the World Health Organization brings awareness to a concerning global decline in vaccination rates and the need for children in particular to catch-up on any missed doses. Resources to promote vaccination throughout the year can be found here: <https://who.canto.global/v/MFVIKVF66B/folder/KOE1B?viewIndex=0>

## Immunisation Resources

### MMR Resources

Increasing the uptake of the MMR vaccination is the national, regional, and local current priority as the uptake has not yet recovered from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are several new resources that we would encourage GP Practices to utilise that can be found at the following links:

**MMR leaflet:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-patient-leaflet-for-young-people>

**Measles outbreak poster:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak> P

#### Promotional videos:

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ArticleSearch.html?sp=Sreset&keyword=IMMS>

#### Social media banner:

<https://publichealthenglandimmunisation.app.box.com/s/rhrtl6io3fuimouqtpe6zt2xj3ue8jdg/file/291034503389>

### Updated PGDs

Please note the link to the PGD website has changed to [NHS England – South East » Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\)](#).

PGD downloads are available here: [NHS England – South East » South East Patient Group Direction downloads](#)

Recently updated PGDs:

Pertussis: [20230303 Pertussis atRisk PGD V6.0.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Men B: [20221220MenBv6.00 GOV-13817 FINAL-AT-signed-005.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Men B Risk Groups:  
[20221220MenBRiskGroupsPGD\\_v4.00 FINAL GOV-13818-AT-signed.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

MenACWY Risk Groups:

[ACWY PGD - At Risk Groups \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

### Vaccine Update

The latest editions of Vaccine Update can be found here:

[Vaccine update: issue 337, April 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Vaccine update: issue 336, March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Vaccine update: issue 335, February 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Previous editions can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

### Maternal Vaccination Leaflet

The 'Pregnancy: how to help protect you and your baby' leaflet includes important information on rubella, pertussis and flu immunisations for pregnant women.

An audio version of this leaflet is available to download here: [Pregnancy: how to help protect you and your baby – audio - Health Publications](#)

Paper copies of this leaflet are available free to order or download in a range of languages here: [Search Publications - Health Publications](#)

### UK Complete Immunisation Schedule

The updated schedule from February 2022 is now available translated into 32 community languages. This is the complete routine immunisation schedule for the UK, including infant, childhood and adult routine and selective immunisations.

Translated versions of the schedule are only currently available to download as a PDF. These can be accessed here: [Search Publications - Health Publications](#)

**Subscribe to keep up to date with national immunisation news:**

**Vaccine Update:** [Vaccine update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/vaccine-update)

## Screening Programme Updates

### BOWEL

#### Bowel Cancer Screening Age Extension

Bowel Cancer Screening age is due to extend to start including those aged 54 years old from April 2023. The final age extension to include 50- and 52-year-olds is due to be rolled out in 2024. Those presenting with symptoms of bowel cancer should continue to be referred via the symptomatic pathway.

## CERVICAL

### Expiry Dates of Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) Vials

Please be aware that LBC vials have an expiry date. It is the sample takers responsibility to ensure that there is robust stock rotation and to check the vials they are using. The expiry date on the vial indicates the last day on which the vial can be tested by the lab, not the last day on which it can be used to place a sample in. **Please ensure there are at least 14 days until the expiry date on the vial before you take a sample.**

Remember:

1. To check that the vial expiry date is not obscured by the patient label.
2. The expiry date format is **YYYY/MM/DD as indicated on the vial**

### Open Exeter

If you need to contact Open Exeter regarding account access the contact details are:

[pcse.openexeter@nhs.net](mailto:pcse.openexeter@nhs.net)

### Contacting Us

The screening and immunisation team work from home, so we are not able to access post or an office landline telephone number.

If any documents need to be shared, can they be scanned and sent to [england.hiow-sit@nhs.net](mailto:england.hiow-sit@nhs.net).  
Please DO NOT include Patient Identifiable Information.

The generic email remains the quickest and most effective way to reach the team

[england.hiow-sit@nhs.net](mailto:england.hiow-sit@nhs.net).