
Joint Statement on Shingrix® vaccine restrictions: NSW Health, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian Medical Association, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Pharmacy Guild of Australia

From 1 November 2023, 'Shingrix®' vaccine will be added to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and replace Zostavax® vaccine. In the early stages of the program high demand and limited availability of Shingrix® vaccine supply to states and territories is anticipated, requiring NSW Health to restrict supply.

Immunisation providers will have a restricted allocation of between 5-20 vaccines per month, depending on the number of immunisation providers at your facility. Supply restrictions are expected to ease in early 2024.

To manage vaccine supplies in the early stages of the program, it is recommended that providers prioritise their highest risk patients for vaccination. Risk of developing shingles increases with age and is higher in people who are immunocompromised. As the recommended scheduling between Shingrix® doses is 2 to 6 months (and 1-2 months for immunocompromised patients), providers should consider their current vaccine stock when booking patients for their second vaccine dose.

Zostavax® vaccine will be removed from the National Immunisation Program from 1 November 2023 and will no longer be provided under the NIP. Immunisation providers may continue to order Zostavax® for people aged 70 years old who prefer to receive this vaccine until they expire in 2024. Zostavax® vaccines may be discarded if there is no patient demand and report discarded amount in the online vaccine ordering system.

Should you require any further information, please contact your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.