

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: October 20, 2020

RE: Shingrix® replacing Zostavax®II as Publicly Funded Shingles (Herpes Zoster) Vaccine

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario's publicly funded shingles program has changed vaccine product from Zostavax®II to Shingrix®.
- Shingrix® is publicly funded for 2 doses in adults ages 65 to 70 years, who have not previously received the Shingrix® vaccine.
- Current evidence and expert recommendations from NACI indicate that Shingrix® is more effective in preventing Herpes Zoster infection and related complications including post-herpetic neuralgia.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- Current supplies of **Zostavax®II will expire October 21, 2020**. All expired Zostavax® II vaccine should be removed from the fridge, placed in a bag with a completed Vaccine Cold Chain and/or Wastage Report, and returned to the Halton Regional Centre at 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville.
- Health care providers can order Shingrix® through the [Online Vaccine Order Form](#).
- Adults who previously purchased Zostavax®II are eligible for 2 doses of publicly funded Shingrix® vaccine.
- Adults, who received a dose of publicly funded Zostavax®II are not eligible for the publicly funded Shingrix® vaccine.
- Adults, who are turning 71 in 2020 or 2021, and missed getting vaccinated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are eligible for 2-doses of Shingrix® until December 31, 2021.
- The Shingrix® vaccine must be reconstituted at time of use and is given IM in 2 doses, 2 to 6 months apart.
- Shingrix® should be offered to eligible individuals regardless of their history of varicella infection, and can be given at the same time as other live or inactivated vaccines including unadjuvanted influenza vaccine.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Studies show that Shingrix® vaccine reduces the risk of shingles by 90% and the risk of post-herpetic neuralgia by 88-91%.
- Individuals who have already received publicly funded Zostavax®II will not be eligible to receive publicly funded Shingrix®. These individuals may receive privately purchased Shingrix®.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Transition to Publicly Funded Shingrix: Information for Health Care Providers](#)
- [Shingrix Vaccine Information for Patients](#)
- [NACI - Updated Recommendations on the Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccines](#)
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-free-shingles-vaccine>

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES – IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS OR DIDN'T RECEIVE IN FULL, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.