



**SHIELD
YOURSELF
FROM
SHINGLES**

Shingles vaccination – health professionals' kit

November 2023

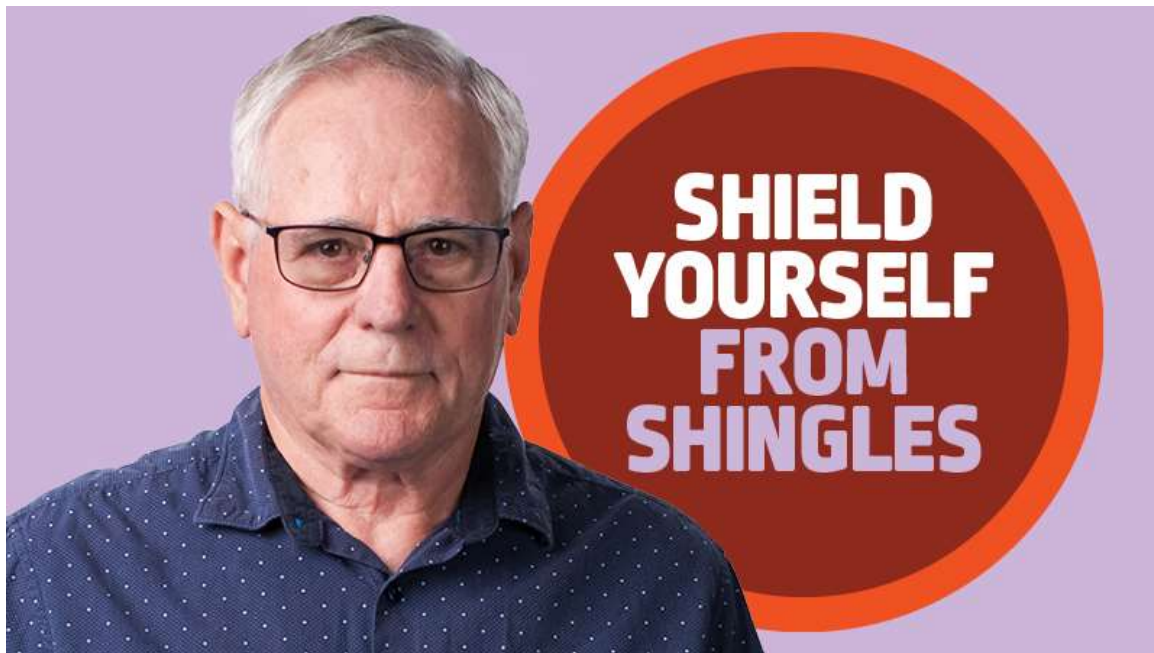




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Changes to the National Immunisation Program shingles vaccine

From 1 November 2023, the shingles vaccine Shingrix replaced Zostavax on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule for the prevention of shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia. It is available for eligible people most at risk of complications from shingles.

A 2-dose course of Shingrix will be available for free for:

- people aged 65 years and over
- First Nations people aged 50 years and over
- immunocompromised people aged 18 years and over with the following medical conditions:
 - haematopoietic stem cell transplant
 - solid organ transplant
 - haematological malignancy
 - advanced or untreated HIV.

Unlike Zostavax, Shingrix does not contain any live virus so it can be given to people aged 18 years and over who are immunocompromised.

Vaccine supply

Vaccine supply is going to be rolled-out to medical practices, Aboriginal Medical Services and pharmacies across Australia from 1 November.

The resources in this kit are designed to support health professionals with conversations about the Shingrix vaccine, eligibility and vaccine supply.

Resources include:

- Email examples
- Communication resources

There are three different scenarios for each resource, based on the practice's situation. Scenarios include:

1. We have vaccine stock available
2. We have run out of Shingrix vaccine supply
3. Shingrix vaccines have not arrived yet

Email/newsletter example paragraphs regarding Shingrix

Scenario 1: We have vaccine stock available

[XXX practice/pharmacy] is pleased to advise that we have Shingrix vaccine stock available.

A 2-dose course of Shingrix is available free for:

- people aged 65 years and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over
- immunocompromised people aged 18 and over with eligible medical conditions.

Please [call us on xxx/go to platform] to book your vaccination.

For more information visit the Department of Health and Aged Care [website](#).

Scenario 2: We have run out of Shingrix vaccine supply

We have experienced high demand for the Shingrix vaccine and all our Shingrix vaccine stock has been administered. Currently, we don't have any vaccine supply available. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Shingrix program is ongoing and vaccine stock will continue to become available over the next few months.

Once we have vaccine supply available, we will notify patients through [our waiting list/email list/our newsletter/social media/other channels]. [We can place you on a waiting list and once the vaccine becomes available at the practice, we will call you to book an appointment.]

Scenario 3: Shingrix vaccines have not arrived yet

Shingrix vaccine stock has not arrived at our [practice/pharmacy/medical service] yet. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Shingrix program is ongoing and vaccine stock will continue to become available over the next few months.

Once we have vaccine supply available, we will notify you through [our waiting list/email list/our newsletter/social media/other channels]. [We can place you on a waiting list and once the vaccine becomes available at the practice, we will call you to book an appointment.]

Common questions

It's natural for patients to have questions about vaccination. A [shingles fact sheet](#) is available on our website for further frequently asked questions and answers covering:

- [Who is eligible for free shingles vaccination](#)
- [Timing between getting shingles and getting the free vaccine](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Vaccine safety](#)

Immunisation clinical support

There is a range of information, resources and tools available on the [Department of Health and Aged Care's website](#) to support clinical practice and the delivery of immunisation services. This includes:

- [The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- [The National Immunisation Program schedule](#)
- [Catch-up vaccination resources](#)
- [Reports from the Australian Immunisation Register](#)
- [Program advice for providers](#)
- [Influenza vaccination resources](#)
- [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance tools, resources and services](#)




For more information visit [Immunisation clinical support](#).

Contacts for state and territory immunisation health services can be found [here](#).







Communication resources

The table below outlines the resources available to support immunisation communication and engagement.

Resource	Preview	Link	Suggested use
NIP adult brochure		Download here	Hand out to patients
NIP adult fact sheet		Download here	Hand out to patients
Fact sheet		Download here	Refer patients to the fact sheet available on the website



<p>Fact sheet for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</p>		<p>Download here</p>	<p>Refer patients to the fact sheet available on the website</p>
<p>Fact sheet for health professionals</p>		<p>Download here</p>	
<p>DL brochures</p>		<p>Download here</p>	<p>Hand out to patients</p>
<p>Posters</p>		<p>Download here</p>	<p>Hand out to patients</p>



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