



Public Health
England



NHS Shingles Immunisation Programme - Wiltshire Update

**BGSW Public Health Commissioning Team
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NHS Shingles Immunisation Programme Update

I. Purpose

This update is provided to brief the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board on the current position of the NHS Shingles Immunisation Programme in Wiltshire.

II. Background

Shingles is caused when latent varicella zoster virus infection reactivates in an individual, this often follows a decrease in immunity and incidence of the disease is known to increase with age.

The NHS Shingles Immunisation Programme commenced in September 2013 and was initially delivered through the routine programme to 70 year olds and through the catch-up programme to 79 year olds.

September 2016 was the start of the fourth year of this immunisation programme, with the delivery of the routine programme to 70 years and the catch-up programme to 78 year olds as of the 1 September 2016.

Persons aged 71, 72 and 73 as of this date and had not previously received the vaccine (*this cohort would have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in the previous 3 years of the programme running as aged 70 then*) were still eligible under the routine program, likewise those aged 79 as of this date and not previously received the vaccine were still eligible under the catch-up programme.

The aim of the immunisation programme is to reduce the incidence and severity of shingles in those targeted by the programme, by boosting individual's pre-existing immunity. As such it is expected that the programme will have a significant impact on reducing the demand on health services (GP, outpatients appointments, pain clinics and hospital admissions). Although there is no national target for Immunisation uptake, GPs in Wiltshire have signed up to the Enhanced Service to continue to offer and promote this vaccination to improve protection in these age groups.

III. Update on uptake of Shingles Immunisation Programme

National and Local Uptake Levels

The published Public Health England 2015/16 national annual shingles immunisation report confirms that in the third year of the Programme in England we saw a continued decline in uptake.

Table 1: Cumulative uptake figures for Wiltshire, BGSW and England - 2013/14, 2014/15 & 2015/16

Shingles Vaccine Uptake	2013/14			2014/15			2015/16		
	Wiltshire (%)	BGSW (%)	England (%)	Wiltshire (%)	BGSW (%)	England (%)	Wiltshire (%)	BGSW (%)	England (%)
Routine 70 year olds	63.5	63.2	61.8	57.4	60.6	59.0	56.6	56.7	54.9
Catch-up 79 year olds	59.9	60.1	59.6	57.6	58.8	58.5	-	-	-
Catch- up 78 year olds	-	-	-	57.5	60.4	57.8	57.0	57.6	55.5

Source: PHE verified data

Table 2: Cumulative uptake figures for Wiltshire, BGSW and England – 2016/17 First quarter (September – November 2016)

Shingles Vaccine Uptake	Wiltshire (%)	BGSW (%)	England (%)
Routine 70 year olds	37.4	36.1	33.2
Catch- up 78 year olds	39.7	38.5	33.6

Source: PHE verified data/ImmForm

The uptake of the NHS Shingles Immunisation Programme in Wiltshire has followed the same pattern seen across England and BGSW as average with a falling trend year on year. For 2015/16 the uptake in Wiltshire was similar to the BGSW average and around 1.5% higher than the national figure.

For the first three months of the 2016/17 programme the uptake for Wiltshire practices is higher than the BGSW and England comparators and is similar to the equivalent period for the 2015/16 programme.

Uptake by General Practices

Uptake varied by general practice in Wiltshire, and in 2015/16 it ranged from 24.5% - 93.5% for the routine programme (70 year olds) and 22% to 88.2% for the catch-up programme (78 year olds).

The Screening and Immunisation Team are working with general practices with low uptake to improve. PHE resources developed to support practices in identifying their eligible population and deliver this programme have been disseminated to all Wiltshire practices. We are in the process of developing Webex training for practice nurses and updating a 'best practice guide' to be shared to all practices across Wiltshire. A 'Share the good practice' between practices with better and those with lower uptake is in planning.

IV. Hospital admissions

Table 3: Number of Hospital Admissions for Shingles (Herpes Zoster) as Primary Diagnosis in Patients aged 60 and above

CCG	Number of admissions				
	2011/12*	2012/13*	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Wiltshire	51	49	55	19	29
Gloucestershire	75	63	74	30	25
BaNES	22	17	19	7	8
Swindon	20	17	21	7	7

**The years before the Immunisation programme commenced*

Source: PHE SW Centre

The above table shows that all BGSW CCGs experienced a decrease since 2013/14, in the number of hospital admissions for shingles as the primary diagnosis in patients aged over 60 years.

V. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board notes the content of this report and support the promotion of the vaccination programme, particularly amongst GP surgeries, care home and other relevant settings in Wiltshire.