

MedStar Health, Inc.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.031.MH
Last Review Date: 05/09/2019
Effective Date: 07/01/2019

MP.031.MH – Zostavax Vaccine

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar CareFirst PPO

MedStar Health considers the **Shingles Vaccines** medically necessary for the following indications:

ZOSTAVAX VACCINE:

This vaccine is covered **for adults 60 years of age or older.**

Limitations

The following are contraindications for this vaccine:

1. HIV+ members with a CD4+ T lymphocyte count of <200 cells/ μ L
2. Treatment with drugs that affect the immune system, such as steroids
3. Members who have a weakened immune system because of:
 - a. Cancer treatment such as radiation or chemotherapy
 - b. Cancer affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic system, such as leukemia or lymphoma
4. Pregnancy or nursing mothers (Pregnancy should be avoided for three months post vaccination)
5. Active tuberculosis
6. History of anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reaction to gelatin, neomycin or any other component of the vaccine
7. The vaccine should not be used in children
8. The vaccine should not be used for treatment of Zoster or PHN

SHINGRIX VACCINE:

This vaccine is indicated for prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in **adults aged 50 years and older.** It is not indicated for prevention of primary varicella infection (chickenpox).

Limitations:

Shingrix should not be administered to:

1. A person with a history of severe allergic reaction, such as anaphylaxis, to any component of a vaccine or after a previous dose of Shingrix
2. A person who is known to be seronegative for varicella

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3. A person experiencing an acute episode of herpes zoster. Shingrix is not a treatment for herpes zoster or postherpetic neuralgia (PHN). The general guidance for any vaccine is to wait until the acute stage of the illness is over and symptoms abate.
4. Shingrix has not been studied in pregnant women or women who are breastfeeding. Providers should consider delaying Shingrix vaccination for these women.
5. Adults with a minor acute illness, such as a cold, can receive Shingrix. Adults with a moderate or severe acute illness should usually wait until they recover before getting the vaccine. This includes anyone with a temperature of 101.3°F or higher

Shingrix has been in use since 2017 and is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as the preferred shingles vaccine over Zostavax.

Background

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster or varicella zoster, is caused by reactivation of the dormant varicella-zoster virus (VZV). VZV is the same virus that causes chickenpox and stays in the body for life. Anyone who has been infected by chickenpox could develop shingles, though not all will. With increasing age and a weakened immunity to VZV, the virus can reactivate causing painful blisters typically on one side of the body. Shingles is most common in people 50 years of age and older and risk of complications increases with age. Common symptoms associated with shingles includes itching and painful rashes, typically presented as clusters of blisters in a single area of the body. Shingles can lead to complications such as post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), a persistent nerve pain occurring after the rash has healed.

According to the CDC, the new shingles vaccine called Shingrix was licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2017. CDC recommends that healthy adults 50 years and older get two doses of Shingrix, 2 to 6 months apart. Shingrix provides strong protection against shingles and PHN. Shingrix is the preferred vaccine, over Zostavax, a shingles vaccine in use since 2006.

Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
90736	Zoster vaccine live for subcutaneous use.
90750 (Shingrix)	Zoster (shingles) vaccine (HZV), recombinant, sub-unit, adjuvanted, for intramuscular use

References

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Disclaimer:

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