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Protecting and improving the nation's health

Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2017 to January 2018

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This report presents cumulative herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine coverage data to the end of January 2018, and compares cumulative vaccine coverage estimates with the same time point in the 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [1].

In the fourth year of the shingles vaccination programme (1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017) shingles vaccine was routinely offered to adults aged 70 years old on 1 September 2016 (born between 2 September 1945 and 1 September 1946) and to a catch-up cohort of adults aged 78 years old on 1 September 2016 (born between 2 September 1937 and 1 September 1938). However, since April 2017, eligibility criteria were revised so that adults become eligible for the routine and catch-up programmes when they turn 70 or 78 years of age respectively, and remain eligible until their 80th birthday [2].

GPs may continue to offer immunisation to anyone who was eligible for shingles vaccine in the first three years of the programme but has not yet been vaccinated, up until their 80th birthday. This includes people aged 71, 72, 73, 74 or 78, 79 on 1 September 2017 [3,4,5,6].

PHE are continuing to monitor shingles vaccination coverage through monthly cumulative data collections via automatic upload of GP practice data. From September 2018, a new quarterly collection will evaluate coverage of adults who have become eligible under the revised criteria since April 2018.

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for immunosuppressed individuals. It is essential to assess the eligibility of individuals prior to offering the shingles vaccine and ensure that those who can benefit are not excluded. Further information on shingles vaccine eligibility is available in the “Immunisation against infectious disease” book (the [Green Book](#)) [7].

Key points

- Provisional cumulative vaccine coverage estimates up to the end of January 2018 show 34.6% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 34.8% coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Compared with January 2017, coverage is 5.3% lower for the routine and 5.5% lower for the catch-up cohort.
- By the end of January 2018, 4.6% of those aged 69 years old on 1 September 2017 had received shingles vaccine (compared to 0.7% of 69 year olds at the end of January 2017). Most of these individuals will have received the vaccine under the revised eligibility criteria, being offered it as they reached their 70th birthday between 1 September and 31 January 2018. Similarly, by the end of January 2018, 5.4% of those aged 77 years old on 1 September 2017 had received vaccine (compared to 1.4% of 77 year olds at the end of January 2017).
- It is therefore likely that part of the decrease in coverage evaluated in January 2018 is a data artefact related to the change in eligibility criteria as a proportion of those eligible under the new criteria for routine and catch-up vaccination are in the 69 and 77 year old cohorts respectively. Even after taking this into account, coverage has decreased compared to that achieved at the end of January 2017. However the decrease is likely to be slower than in previous years

Methods

GP practice-level shingles vaccine coverage data are automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm* website on a monthly basis. These data are then validated and analysed by PHE to check data completeness, identify and query any anomalous results and describe epidemiological trends. The automated monthly surveys measure vaccine coverage as the total number of patients aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2017 who have ever received the vaccination (numerator) as a proportion of the number of patients registered aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2017 (denominator).

*ImmForm is the system used by Public Health England to record vaccine coverage data for some immunisation programmes and to provide vaccine ordering facilities for the NHS.

This report describes vaccine coverage of each eligible cohort for England and by NHS England Local Team (LT). Vaccine coverage estimates by Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and former Area Team (AT) for trend analysis, are published [here](#).

Participation and data quality

These cumulative data are provisional and should be interpreted with caution.

All four GP IT suppliers provided data for December 2017 and January 2018. In total 6,963/7,200 (96.7%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in January 2018. This ranged by LT from 94.0% of practices in London to 99.6% of practices in Midlands and East (East) (table).

Data for September to October 2017 were not available as three out of four GP IT suppliers did not provide data and the submitted data from one IT supplier was not considered sufficiently representative. Three out of four GP IT suppliers, representing 59.8% of GP practices, provided data for November 2017. Because the collection presents cumulative data, December and January coverage data include vaccine doses delivered during those months for which data are missing.

Results

- Overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme was 34.6% in January 2018 for the routine 70 year old cohort and 34.8% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. This was lower than in previous years at the same point in time for the 70 year old cohorts (39.9% in January 2017, 43.9% in January 2016, 46.6% in January 2015 and 46.6% in January 2014) and 78 year old catch-up cohorts (40.3% in January 2017, 43.8% in January 2016 and 45.9% in January 2015*) (see figures 1 and 2).

* No comparative data for 78 year olds in January 2014 are available as the catch-up cohort in 2013/14 was those aged 79 years on 1 September 2013

- Coverage by LT ranged from 30.9% (London) to 37.9% (Yorkshire and Humber) for the routine 70 year old cohort and from 29.3% (Lancashire) to 37.6% (South West) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (table). Decreases in coverage between January 2017 and January 2018 have been observed across all LTs (ranging from 2.6% to 9.3% decrease for the routine cohort, 2.4% to 10.7% decrease for the catch-up cohort). At the CCG level, between January 2017 and January 2018) coverage has also decreased in 176/207 (85%) CCGs for the routine 70 year old cohort and in 178/207 (86%) CCGs for the 78 year old catch-up cohort.
- By the end of January 2018, 4.6% of those aged 69 years old on 1st September 2017 had received shingles vaccine (compared to 0.7% of 69 year olds at the end of January 2017). Most of these individuals will have received the vaccine under the revised eligibility criteria, being offered it as they reached their 70th birthday between 1 September and 31 January 2018. Similarly, by the end of January 2018, 5.4% of those aged 77 years old on 1 September 2017 had received vaccine (compared to 1.4% of 77 year olds at the end of January 2017).

Discussion

Provisional cumulative shingles vaccine coverage estimates to the end of January 2018 show decreases of 5.3% and 5.5% for the routine and catch-up cohorts respectively compared to January 2017. However coverage among 69 and 77 year olds, which includes individuals eligible under the new eligibility criteria, has increased by 3.9% and 4.0% respectively. It is therefore likely that most of the decrease in coverage evaluated in January 2018 is a data artefact related to the change in eligibility criteria. Even after taking this into account, coverage has decreased compared to that achieved at the end of January 2017. However the decrease is likely to be slower than in previous years. This continues the trend of lowest recorded shingles vaccination coverage for both cohorts since the programme began; possible explanations were suggested in the latest annual report [8].

Previous cohorts remain eligible for vaccination, and longer term vaccine coverage data has shown increases in coverage in these cohorts in subsequent years [7]. It is important

that GPs continue to offer the shingles vaccine to eligible patients from the current and previous cohorts in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

PHE are continuing to monitor shingles vaccination coverage through monthly cumulative data collections via automatic upload of GP practice data until August 2018 using an extraction criteria based on age (70 or 78 years) on 1 September 2017. From September 2018, a new quarterly collection will evaluate coverage of adults who have become eligible under the revised criteria since April 2018.

References

1. PHE, [Shingles vaccine uptake](#).
2. PHE, [Shingles vaccination leaflet](#).
3. PHE. [Shingles immunisation programme letter. 2014](#).
4. NHS England. [Who can have the shingles vaccine?](#)
5. PHE. [Who is eligible for the 2016 to 2017 shingles vaccine?](#).
6. PHE. [Shingles vaccination for adults aged 70, 78 or 79 years of age: calculator](#).
7. PHE. [Shingles \(herpes zoster\): the Green Book, chapter 28a](#) (updated 26 February 2016).
8. PHE. [Herpes zoster \(shingles\) immunisation programme report \(England\): September 2016 to August 2017](#).

Figure 1. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage in November 2017 to January 2018* for individuals aged 70 years on 1 September 2017, compared to routine cohorts in 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14, England

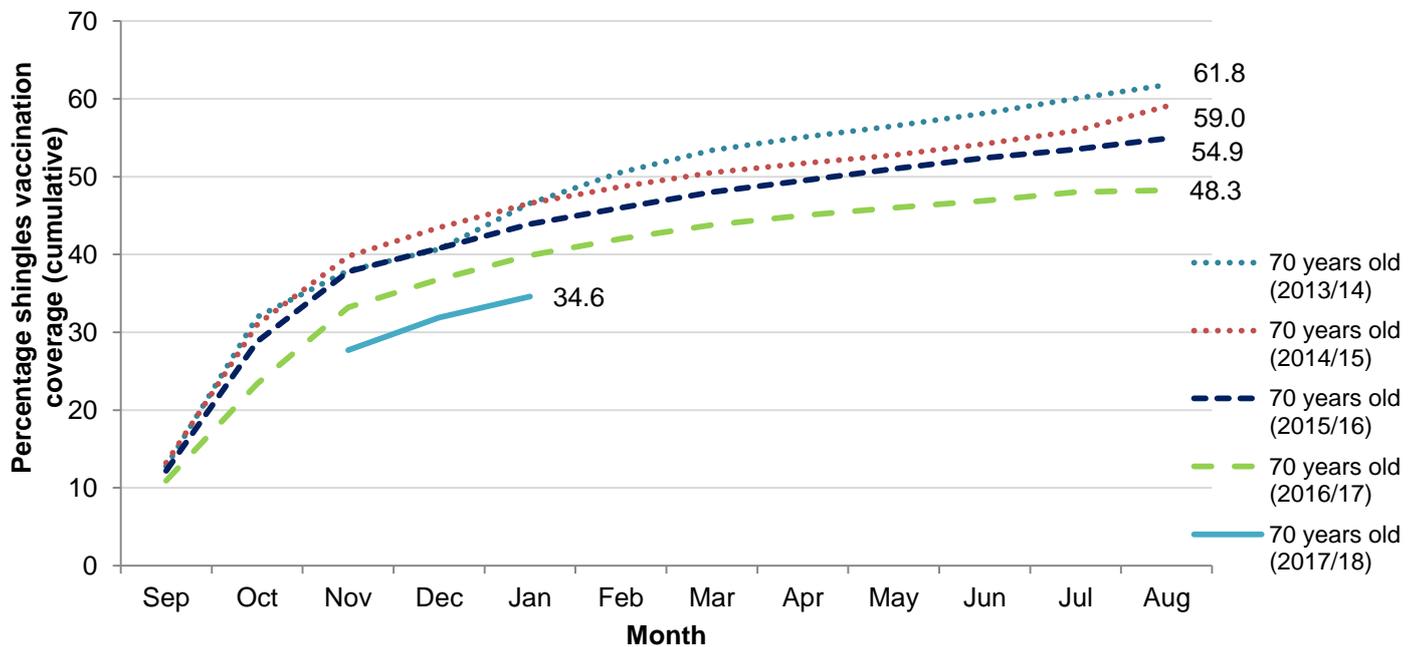
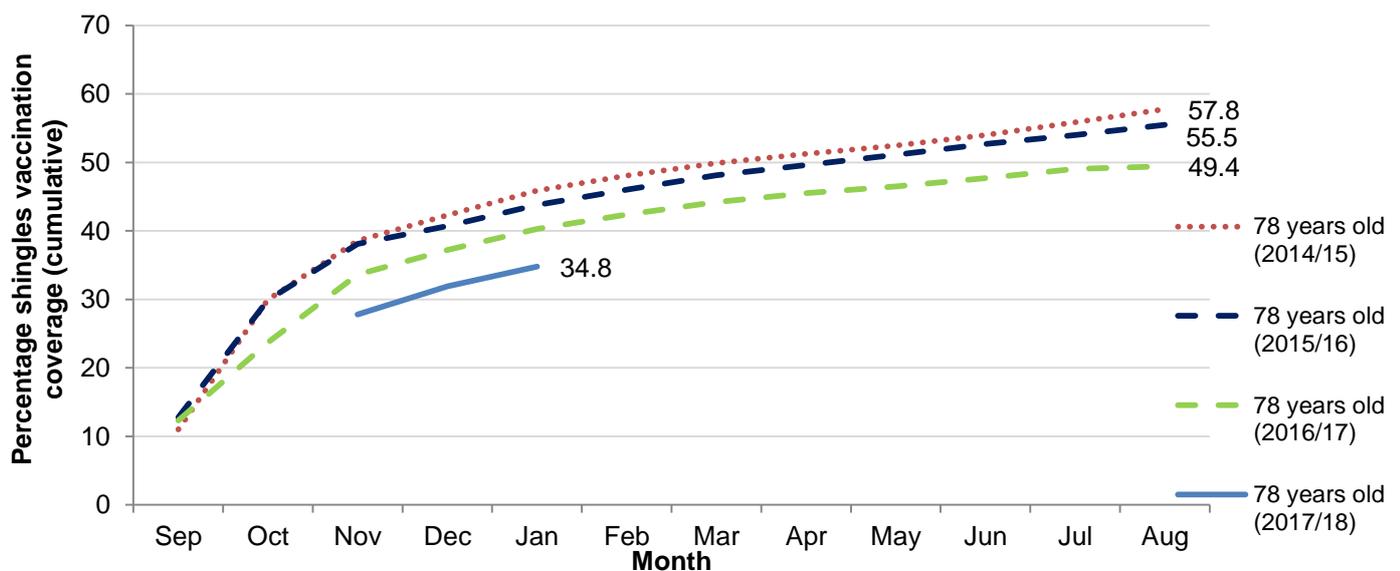


Figure 2. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage in November 2017 to January 2018* for individuals aged 78 years on 1 September 2017, compared to catch-up cohorts in 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15, England



NB: Coverage for the 2013/14 catch-up cohort are not shown as they were a different age cohort (79 years of age)

*September and October 2017 data not available

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage to end January 2018 by age cohort and Local Team, England

Local Team	Percent of practices reporting data in January 2018	Percent coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	Percent coverage in catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
NHS England London	94.0	30.9	30.8
NHS England Midlands and East (Central Midlands)	98.1	33.4	33.8
NHS England Midlands and East (East)	99.6	34.9	35.0
NHS England Midlands and East (North Midlands)	97.3	37.5	37.5
NHS England Midlands and East (West Midlands)	95.4	32.6	32.9
NHS England North (Cheshire and Merseyside)	98.4	32.7	32.6
NHS England North (Cumbria and North East)	96.5	35.8	35.4
NHS England North (Greater Manchester)	94.6	31.0	30.9
NHS England North (Lancashire)	98.3	31.0	29.3
NHS England North (Yorkshire and Humber)	99.3	37.9	37.0
NHS England South (South Central)	96.5	36.2	36.7
NHS England South (South East)	94.9	34.6	36.2
NHS England South (South West)	97.8	35.6	37.6
NHS England South (Wessex)	99.3	36.8	37.5
ENGLAND	96.7	34.6	34.8

About Public Health England

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Health Protection Report is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

Public Health England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG Tel: 020 7654 8000 www.gov.uk/phe

Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk) Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

Queries relating to this document should be directed to:

Immunisation, Hepatitis and Blood Safety Department: shingles@phe.gov.uk

National Infection Service, PHE Colindale,
61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ.



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