



Shingles vaccine special edition

In line with the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, Zostavax[®] vaccine is being used for the shingles immunisation programme that started on 1 September 2013. Initially it is being provided to those aged 70 or 79 on that date.

Based on assurances of continuity of supply from the manufacturer - Sanofi Pasteur MSD (SPMSD) - national distribution of the Zostavax[®] vaccine began on 1 August 2013. However, due to a current temporary delay with the supply of the vaccine into the UK, customer orders in England are currently being capped at five doses per order. This situation will remain fluid and the order quantity may vary until supply can be resumed fully, which is unlikely to be before October.

Vaccine must only be ordered for the **70- and 79-year-olds** cohorts this year. Please ensure that excess vaccine is redistributed where this is possible and in line with regulatory requirements. The vaccine is expensive, therefore stockpiling of the vaccine and wastage must be minimised.

Where possible, we recommend the vaccine be administered alongside the flu vaccine. If this is not possible because of supply, or has not been planned, then please note that the vaccine can be administered to the two eligible cohorts at **any time of the year** between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014.

A large quantity of vaccine has already been distributed throughout the UK to start the programme. We do not expect this temporary supply issue to affect the overall programme to immunise all 70- and 79-year-olds who request the vaccination over the forthcoming year.

Customers should refer to the ImmForm website for the latest information on vaccine availability, or contact vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk

Vaccine update subscriptions: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHPA/subscribers/new?preferences=true>