



Infection report

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Immunisation

Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September to November 2014

Coverage of the shingles vaccine in routine and catch-up cohorts for the first quarter of the 2014/15 programme is marginally higher than that recorded for the same time period last year.

Introduction

A report evaluating the first year (September 2013 to August 2014) of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England was published in December 2014 [1]. Here we present data for the first three months of the second year of this national immunisation programme which started on the 1 September 2014.

This year (1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015) the shingles vaccine should be offered to patients aged 70 years for the routine programme (born between 2 September 1943 and 1 September 1944) and patients aged 78 and 79 years (born between 2 September 1934 and 1 September 1936) for the catch-up programme. Eligibility is determined by the patient's age on 1 September 2014. From 1 September 2014 GPs may continue to offer immunisation to all those who became eligible as 70 year-olds from 1 September 2013 but have not yet been immunised [2]. The programme aims to reduce the incidence and severity of shingles by boosting individuals' pre-existing varicella zoster virus immunity.

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for individuals with severe immunosuppression either as a result of combination immunosuppressive therapies or due to a known primary or acquired immunodeficiency state such as leukaemia or lymphoma. It is also contraindicated for pregnant women. It is important to assess the eligibility of individuals prior to offering the shingles vaccine. Whilst a number of individuals in the eligible cohort are likely to have underlying medical conditions, many are likely to benefit and therefore prior assessment is essential to ensure individuals who can benefit from the vaccine are not excluded [3,4].

Methods

Aggregated GP practice level shingles vaccine coverage data are automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm* website on a monthly and annual basis. The ImmForm website provides a secure platform for vaccine coverage collections and these data collections are monitored, validated and analysed by PHE.

* 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.

Results

In total 7,404/ 7,867 (94.1%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in November 2014 (compared to 84.4% of GP practices in November 2013). This ranged from 85.5% of practices in Cumbria Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Area Team, to 99.4% of practices in West Yorkshire Area Team (table 1).

Table 1. Shingles vaccine coverage in England by age cohort and Area Team - 1st September 2014 to 30th November 2014

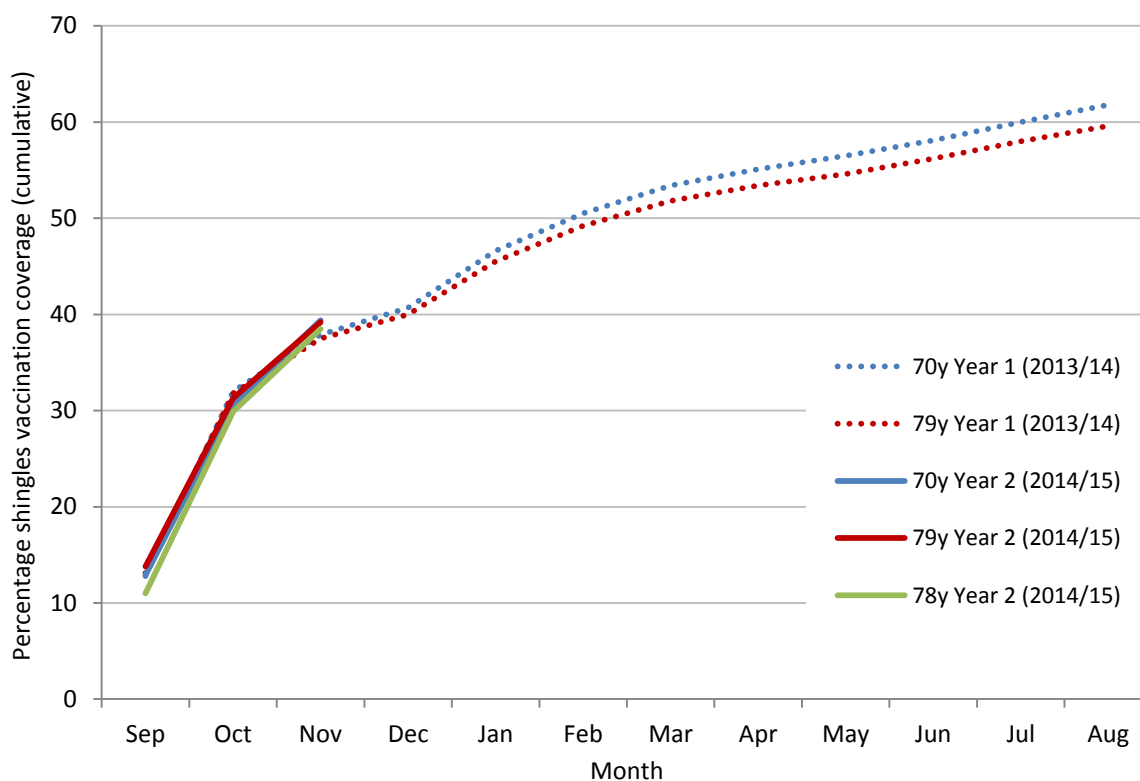
| Area Team (code) | Per cent of practices reporting data in Nov. 2014 | Percentage of age cohort vaccinated to end November 2014 | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Routine 70 years | Catch-up 79 years | Catch-up 78 years |
| Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44) | 96.4 | 42.8 | 44.5 | 43.3 |
| Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45) | 92.4 | 43.8 | 42.9 | 42.0 |
| Greater Manchester (Q46) | 85.7 | 37.3 | 36.5 | 36.4 |
| Lancashire (Q47) | 98.7 | 39.8 | 38.7 | 39.9 |
| Merseyside (Q48) | 91.0 | 36.6 | 36.1 | 36.9 |
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49) | 85.5 | 43.3 | 43.0 | 42.9 |
| N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50) | 95.3 | 41.7 | 41.8 | 39.7 |
| S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51) | 97.7 | 41.0 | 39.9 | 39.6 |
| W Yorkshire (Q52) | 99.4 | 44.8 | 42.6 | 39.9 |
| Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53) | 96.1 | 39.5 | 41.0 | 41.3 |
| Birmingham and Black Country (Q54) | 89.6 | 36.3 | 35.5 | 35.5 |
| Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55) | 96.6 | 44.5 | 42.1 | 40.6 |
| East Anglia (Q56) | 93.4 | 44.3 | 42.3 | 40.3 |
| Essex (Q57) | 96.3 | 36.2 | 37.1 | 34.5 |
| Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58) | 94.9 | 44.1 | 42.5 | 42.2 |
| Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59) | 98.0 | 43.3 | 42.9 | 40.2 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60) | 89.3 | 40.3 | 40.4 | 39.7 |
| Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire (Q64) | 96.9 | 40.8 | 42.6 | 40.0 |
| Bristol, N Somerset, Somerset and S Gloucestershire (Q65) | 93.9 | 35.9 | 36.9 | 37.5 |
| Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66) | 92.5 | 41.4 | 42.4 | 40.1 |
| Kent and Medway (Q67) | 91.8 | 36.9 | 38.2 | 39.6 |
| Surrey and Sussex (Q68) | 94.9 | 36.1 | 37.6 | 36.4 |
| Thames Valley (Q69) | 96.2 | 40.0 | 39.5 | 41.9 |
| Wessex (Q70) | 95.0 | 39.8 | 40.0 | 39.0 |
| London (Q71) | 96.6 | 30.0 | 30.3 | 30.8 |
| ENGLAND | 94.1 | 39.4 | 39.2 | 38.5 |

Overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme in England in November 2014 was 39.4% for the routine 70 year old cohort (compared to 37.9% at the same point in 2013), 39.2% in the 79 year old catch-up cohort (compared to 37.5% at the same point in 2013), and 38.5% in the 78 year old catch-up cohort (Figure 1). Slightly higher coverage was observed for males (39.2%) and females (39.6%) for those aged 70 years, this was more pronounced for males compared to females in the catch-up cohorts (79 years: 41.0 vs. 37.6%, 78 years: 40.1 vs. 37.2%).

Coverage by Area Team ranged from 30.0% (London) to 44.8% (West Yorkshire) for the routine 70 year old cohort, 30.3% (London) to 44.5% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the 79 year old catch-up cohort and 30.8% (London) to 43.3% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Nine (out of 25) Area Teams achieved $\geq 40\%$ coverage for all three cohorts. Coverage estimates for Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) by age cohort are available in the appendix [5].

A small proportion (3.5%) of individuals in cohorts who will become eligible for vaccination in future years (67-69 year olds and 71-77 year olds) across England were recorded as vaccinated. As only one dose of shingles vaccine is recommended, these patients will not require vaccination in future years. Area Team level data for the proportion vaccinated in future cohorts has not been published this quarter due to an outstanding query on data from one GP IT supplier, but will be provided in a future report.

Figure 1. Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage in England by age cohort, September to November 2014 (Year 2), and September 2013 to August 2014 (Year 1)



Discussion

Vaccine coverage data for the first quarter of the 2014/15 shingles vaccination programme in England has reached almost 40% which is marginally higher than the coverage achieved at the same time last year. Annual coverage for the 2013/14 programme reached 62% for the routine cohort and almost 60% for the catch-up cohort [1] and so, given current performance, it is hoped that similar or higher coverage will be achieved in the second year of the shingles programme by the end of August 2015.

Various surveillance systems have been put in place by PHE in collaboration with a range of partners to effectively monitor the impact and effectiveness of the shingles vaccine programme in England, and results will be reported in due course [1]. GP practices are urged to continue to offer shingles vaccine to the eligible cohorts in the coming months, beyond the current flu campaign in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

References/appendix

1. Herpes zoster (shingles) immunisation programme 2013 to 2014: evaluation report. 2014. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/herpes-zoster-shingles-immunisation-programme-2013-to-2014-evaluation-report>
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 4. Public Health England. Shingles (herpes zoster): the green book, Chapter 28a. 2014. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357155/Green_Book_Chapter_28a_v0_5.pdf
 5. [Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September to November 2014, appendix: “Vaccine coverage in England by age cohort and Clinical Commissioning Group \(CCG\), 1 September 2014 to 30 November 2014”](#).
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