



Infection report

Volume 9 Number 26 Published on: 24 July 2015

Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2014 to May 2015

Coverage of the shingles vaccine in the routine cohort by the third quarter of the 2014/15 programme, is almost four percent lower than that recorded for the same time period last year but is comparable for patients in the catch-up cohorts, aged 78 and 79 years.

Introduction

A report describing the first six months of the second year (September 2014 to February 2015) of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England was published in April 2015 [1]. Here we update those data to include the third quarter of the second year of this national immunisation programme.

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 an evaluation of the first year of the programme, including vaccine coverage by ethnic group, was published in December 2014 [2].

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 [3]. 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 [4,5].

Methods

Aggregated GP practice level shingles vaccine coverage data are automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm* website on a monthly 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.

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage in England by age cohort and Area Team: 1 September 2014 to 31 May 2015*

| Area Team (code) | Per cent of practices reporting data in May 2015 | Percentage of age cohort vaccinated to end May 2015 | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Routine 70 years | Catch-up 79 years | Catch-up 78 years |
| Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44) | 94.6 | 55.7 | 60.0 | 56.6 |
| Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45) | 97.6 | 53.8 | 52.4 | 52.7 |
| Greater Manchester (Q46) | 91.1 | 51.6 | 51.5 | 50.2 |
| Lancashire (Q47) | 98.7 | 52.7 | 54.0 | 54.8 |
| Merseyside (Q48) | 93.1 | 49.0 | 53.1 | 50.8 |
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49) | 96.3 | 55.6 | 57.7 | 56.2 |
| N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50) | 96.5 | 53.2 | 52.9 | 52.4 |
| S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51) | 98.6 | 54.2 | 52.6 | 52.4 |
| W Yorkshire (Q52) | 100.0 | 55.6 | 54.5 | 53.2 |
| Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53) | 91.5 | 54.2 | 56.8 | 55.5 |
| Birmingham and Black Country (Q54) | 93.3 | 48.3 | 50.8 | 48.8 |
| Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55) | 98.5 | 57.2 | 55.4 | 54.0 |
| East Anglia (Q56) | 97.2 | 57.7 | 56.8 | 55.3 |
| Essex (Q57) | 98.5 | 47.0 | 47.3 | 45.3 |
| Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58) | 97.4 | 55.9 | 55.7 | 54.4 |
| Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59) | 97.1 | 58.8 | 58.0 | 56.2 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60) | 92.1 | 53.7 | 56.0 | 54.1 |
| Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire (Q64) | 97.9 | 54.9 | 54.8 | 53.3 |
| Bristol, N Somerset, Somerset and S Gloucestershire (Q65) | 92.8 | 54.7 | 55.9 | 55.9 |
| Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66) | 93.0 | 54.8 | 55.8 | 54.7 |
| Kent and Medway (Q67) | 87.9 | 51.4 | 52.7 | 53.2 |
| Surrey and Sussex (Q68) | 98.8 | 50.9 | 53.1 | 51.6 |
| Thames Valley (Q69) | 94.5 | 55.5 | 58.4 | 58.2 |
| Wessex (Q70) | 96.2 | 55.6 | 57.3 | 56.1 |
| London (Q71) | 97.1 | 42.0 | 45.8 | 43.3 |
| ENGLAND | 95.8 | 52.8 | 53.8 | 52.5 |

* Data are provisional and reliant upon correct interpretation and implementation of the data specification by GP IT suppliers. One of four IT suppliers (representing 36% of registered patients) has been identified as potentially under-reporting vaccination rates and further investigations are underway.

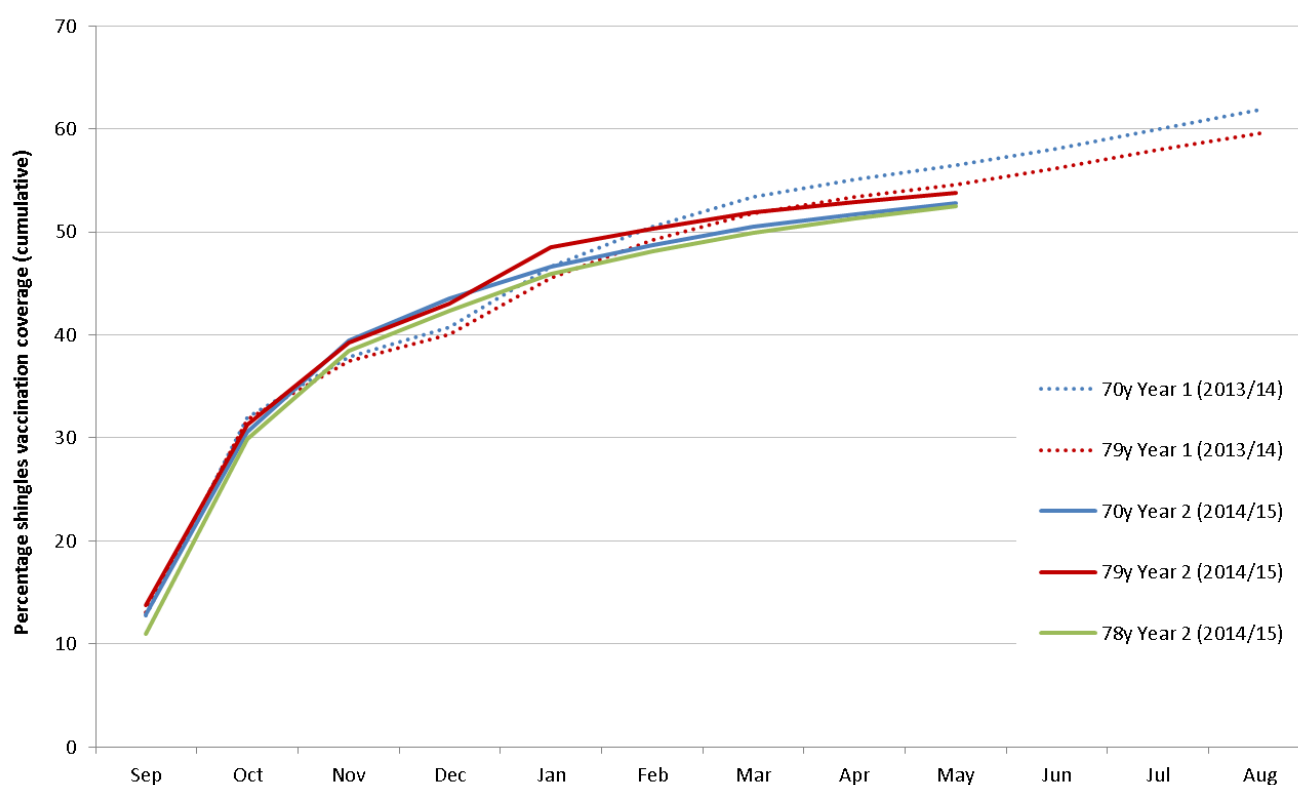
Results

In total 7487/7819 (95.8%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in May 2015 (compared to 97.0% of GP practices in February 2015). This ranged from 87.9% of practices in Kent and Medway Area Team, to 100% of practices in West Yorkshire Area Team (see table and appendix).

Overall cumulative coverage of the shingles vaccination programme in England in May 2015 was 52.8% for the routine 70 year old cohort (compared to 56.5% at the same point in 2014), 53.8% in the 79 year old catch-up cohort (compared to 54.6% at the same point in 2014), and 52.5% in the 78 year old catch-up cohort (see figure).

Coverage by Area Team (AT) ranged from 42.0% (London) to 58.8% (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) for the routine 70 year old cohort, 45.8% (London) to 60.0% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the 79 year old catch-up cohort and 43.3% (London) to 58.2% (Thames Valley) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Coverage $\geq 50\%$ was achieved in all three age cohorts for 21 of 25 ATs. Coverage estimates by Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and age cohort are available as an [appendix](#) to this report [6].

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage in England by age cohort, September 2014 to May 2015 (year 2), and September 2013 to August 2014 (year 1)



Discussion

By the end of May 2015 vaccine coverage for the 2014/15 shingles vaccination programme was 52.8% for the routine cohort in England, almost 4% lower than the coverage achieved at the same time last year (56.5%). Cumulative coverage for the 79 year old catch-up cohort was 53.8%, only marginally lower than the 54.6% achieved at the same point in 2014. However it should be noted that in 2014/15 an additional catch-up cohort has been targeted with 52.5% coverage reached among 78 year olds. Annual coverage for the 2013/14 programme reached 62% for the routine cohort and almost 60% for the catch-up cohort [2] and so a final push to

reach more patients in the routine and catch-up cohorts needs to continue over the summer if similar coverage is to be achieved by the end of August 2015.

GP practices are urged to continue to offer shingles vaccine to the eligible cohorts in the coming months in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

References

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5. Public Health England. Shingles (herpes zoster): the green book, Chapter 28a. 2014. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-herpes-zoster-the-green-book-chapter-28a>
6. Public Health England. Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2014 to February 2015, **appendix**: “[Vaccine coverage in England by age cohort and Clinical Commissioning Group \(CCG\), 1 September 2014 to 31 May 2015](#)”.

Appendix

“Shingles Immunisation Vaccine Coverage Monitoring Programme, England September 2014 to May 2015” is available on the GOV.UK website page “[Herpes zoster \(shingles\) immunisation programme: vaccine coverage data](#)”.
