



Infection report

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Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2015 to November 2015

Provisional cumulative vaccine coverage estimates show 37.8% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 38.2% coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Compared with November 2014, coverage has decreased by 2% for the routine cohort and by 0.4% for the catch-up cohort.

Introduction

This report describes the first quarter (September to November 2015) of the third year of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England, comparing cumulative vaccine coverage estimates with the first quarter of the 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [1,2].

In this year of the programme (1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016) shingles vaccine is routinely offered to patients aged 70 years old on 1 September 2015 (born between 2 September 1944 and 1 September 1945) and to a catch-up cohort comprised of adults aged 78 years old on 1 September 2015 (born between 2 September 1936 and 1 September 1937). GPs may continue to offer immunisation to anyone who was eligible for shingles vaccine in the first two years of the programme but has not yet been vaccinated, up until their 80th birthday. This includes people aged 71, 72 or 79 on 1 September 2015 [3,4].

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for individuals with severe immunosuppression and pregnant women. 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](#)) [5].

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 the proportion vaccinated in two ways:

- vaccine **coverage** – the total number of patients aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 **who have ever received the vaccination** (numerator) as a proportion of the number of patients registered aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 (denominator)
- vaccine **uptake** – the total number of patients aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 **who received the vaccination between 1 September 2015 and 31 November 2015** (numerator) as a proportion of the number of patients registered aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2015 (denominator)

This report describes vaccine **coverage** of each eligible cohort for England and by NHS England area team (AT).

* 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

Participation and data quality

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

Due to problems uploading data, coverage estimates for September and October 2015 (figures 1 and 2) include data from two of four IT suppliers, representing 60.2% GP practices. Coverage estimates to November 2015 include data from three of four IT suppliers, representing 81.7% GP practices (compared to 94.1% in November 2014). This decrease is due to incomplete data from one of these three data suppliers.

It is important to note that specific geographical areas are supplied by specific GP IT suppliers. In particular, the GP IT supplier not submitting data for this collection supplies a high proportion (34%) of GP practices in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, compared with other ATs.

As a result of incomplete data, CCG level coverage estimates are not presented.

Results

In total 6310/7723 (81.7%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in November 2015. This ranged from 48.6% of practices in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (see participation and data quality), to 97.3% of practices in Lancashire (table). Coverage by AT ranged from 32.7% (London) to 42.5% (Durham, Darlington and Tees) for the routine 70 year old cohort, and from 33.2% (London) to 42.2% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (table).

Overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme, including those vaccinated since September 2013 is 37.8% for the routine 70 year old cohort (compared to 39.8% in November 2014 and 37.9% in November 2013) and 38.2% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (compared to 38.6% in November 2014) (see figures 1 and 2).

Discussion

Provisional cumulative shingles vaccine coverage estimates to the end of November 2015 show a drop of 2% for the routine cohort (compared to November 2014), back to coverage comparable to November 2013. The coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort has dropped by 0.4% (compared to November 2014). Whilst these data are to be interpreted with caution due to partial GP IT supplier participation and data quality, it is important that GPs continue to offer the shingles vaccine to eligible patients in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

Further provisional cumulative coverage data will be published on a quarterly basis, with the finalised annual coverage data due to be published in autumn 2016.

References

1. Public Health England, *Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September to November 2014*. HPR, 2015. 9(3).
2. Public Health England. *Herpes zoster (shingles) immunisation programme 2013/2014: Report for England*. 2015; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake#shingles-vaccine-uptake>.
3. Public Health England. *Shingles immunisation programme letter*. 2014; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-immunisation-programme-letter>.
4. England, N. *Who can have the shingles vaccine?* 2015; Available from: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/who-can-have-the-shingles-vaccine.aspx>.
5. Public Health England. *Shingles (herpes zoster): the green book, chapter 28a*. The Green Book 2014 9 October 2015; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-herpes-zoster-the-green-book-chapter-28a>.

Figure 1. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the routine cohort (70 year old) for September to November 2015, compared to 2013/14 and 2014/15 data, England

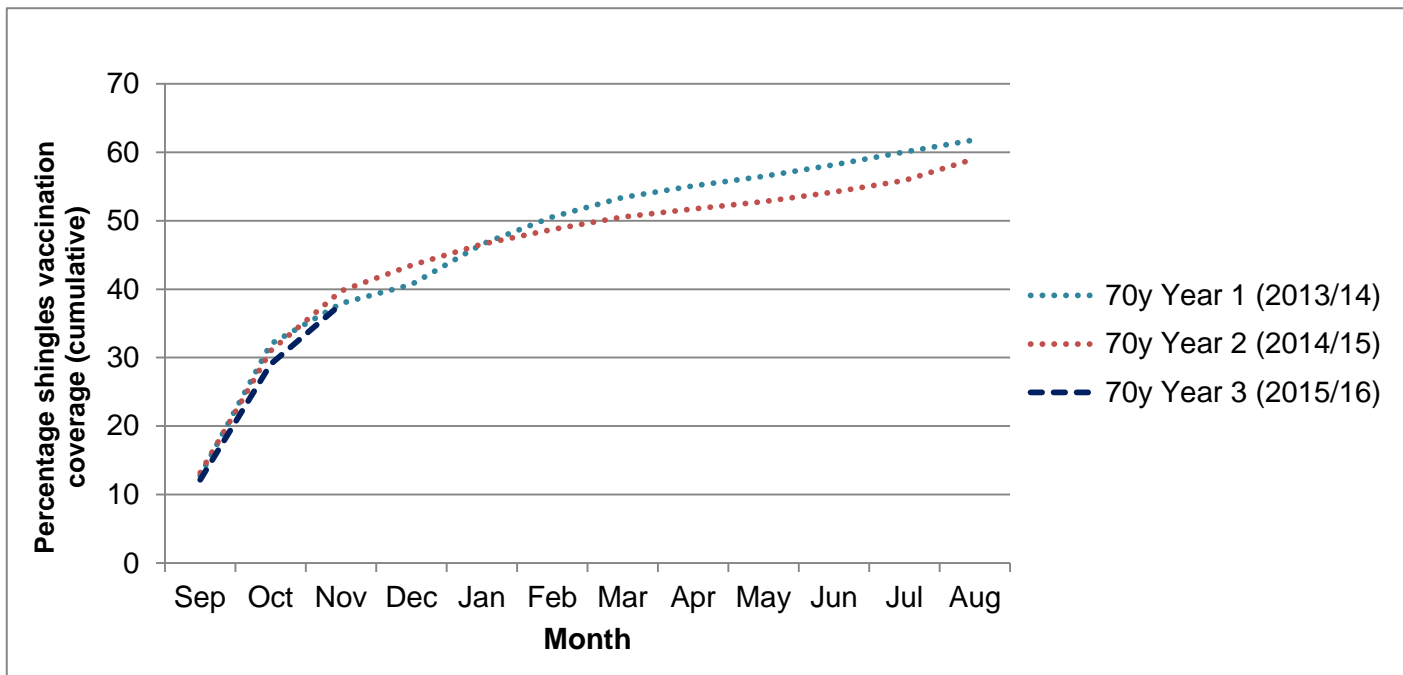
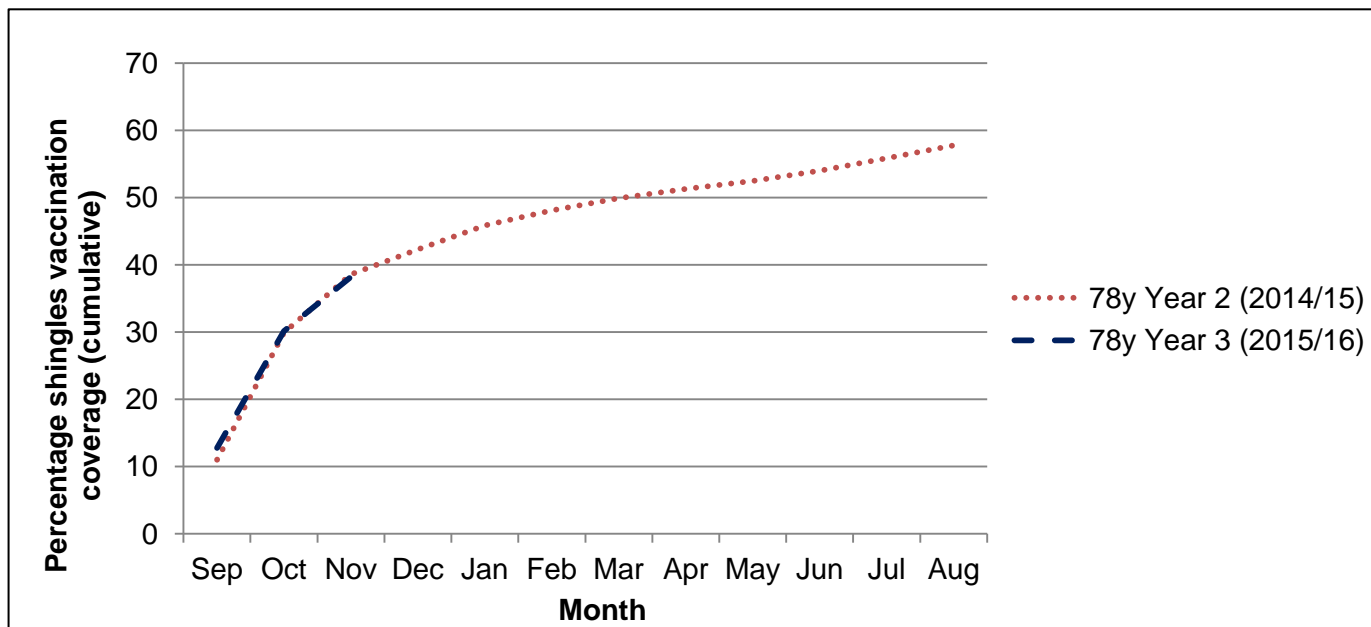


Figure 2. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the catch-up cohort (78 year old) for September to November 2015, compared to 2014/15 data, England



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

Table: Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage to end November 2015 by age cohort and Area Team, England

Area Team (code)	Percent of practices reporting data in November 2015	Percent coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	Percent coverage in catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44)	84.5	42.3	42.2
Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45)	87.1	42.5	40.9
Greater Manchester (Q46)	88.8	37.8	36.6
Lancashire (Q47)	97.3	39.6	39.8
Merseyside (Q48)	90.9	36.7	37.6
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49)	92.2	41.3	41.4
N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50)	79.9	37.9	37.8
S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51)	55.7	42.1	42.1
W Yorkshire (Q52)	71.6	39.7	39.8
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53)	93.4	40.1	39.5
Birmingham and Black Country (Q54)	85.6	37.7	37.0
Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55)	62.8	38.4	38.8
East Anglia (Q56)	70.6	39.8	40.2
Essex (Q57)	70.4	33.8	35.2
Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58)	62.7	40.5	39.9
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59)	75.5	38.7	35.3
Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60)	89.4	38.9	40.1
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire (Q64)	72.1	39.1	40.2
Bristol, N Somerset, Somerset and S Gloucestershire (Q65)	90.8	36.3	38.0
Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66)	48.6	39.5	39.8
Kent and Medway (Q67)	92.9	35.8	36.5
Surrey and Sussex (Q68)	82.5	35.8	38.1
Thames Valley (Q69)	93.1	36.0	39.3
Wessex (Q70)	76.9	38.7	39.3
London (Q71)	90.0	32.7	33.2
ENGLAND	81.7	37.8	38.2