



Infection report

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Shingles vaccine coverage report (England) September 2015 to May 2016

Provisional cumulative vaccine coverage estimates to the end of May 2016 show 51.0% coverage for the routine 70 year old and 51.1% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Compared with May 2015, coverage was lower by 1.8% for the routine cohort and by 1.4% for the catch-up cohort.

Introduction

This report describes the first nine months (September 2015 to May 2016) of the third year of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England, comparing cumulative vaccine coverage estimates with the 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [1, 2].

In this year of the programme (1 September 2015 to 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.

* 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.

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). Vaccine coverage estimates by NHS England Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are presented in an [appendix](#) associated with this report.

Results

In total, shingles vaccine coverage data were available for 7291/7620 (95.7%) English GP practices in May 2016. This ranged by AT from 90.3% of practices in Shropshire and Staffordshire, to 99.1% of practices in North Yorkshire and Humber (see table).

By the end of May 2016, 51.0% of the 70 year old routine cohort were vaccinated (compared to 52.8% in May 2015 and 56.5% in May 2014), and 51.1% of the 78 year old catch-up cohort were vaccinated (compared to 52.5% in May 2015) (figures 1 and 2).

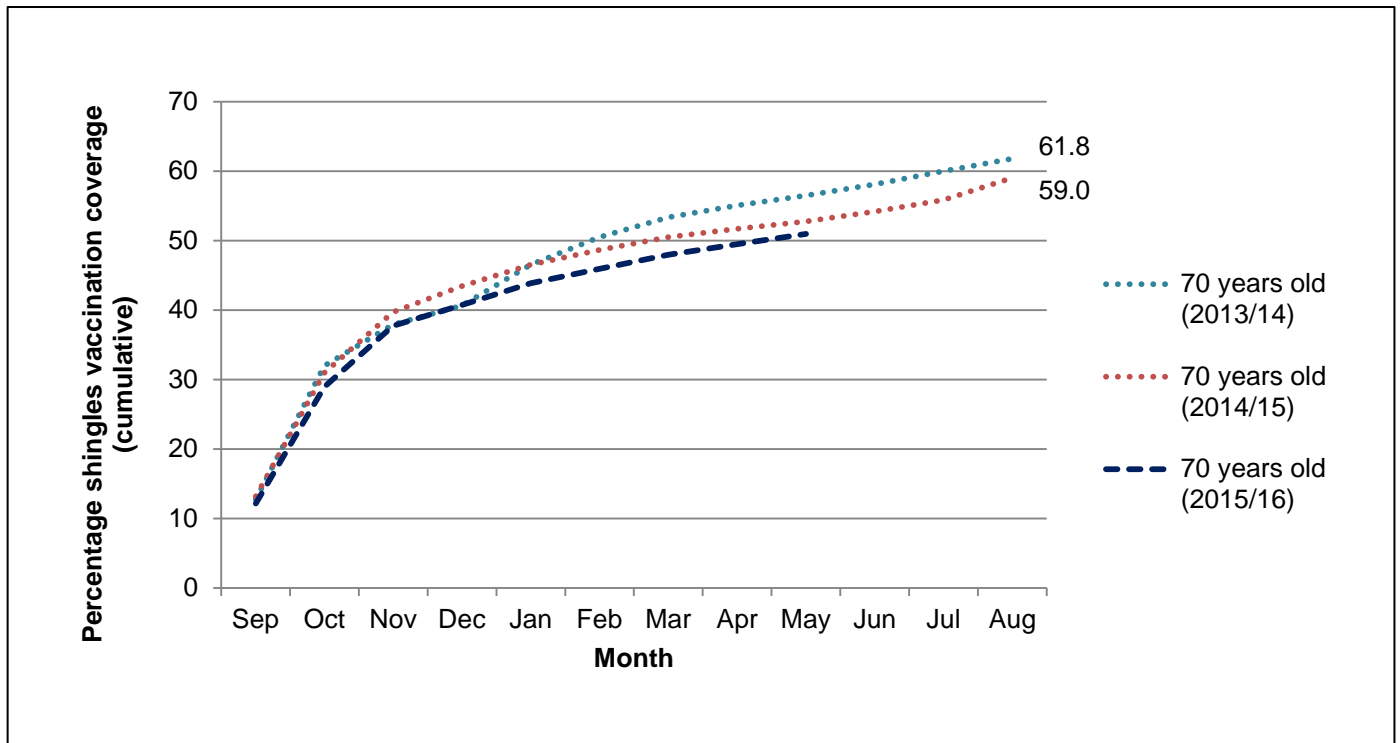
Coverage by AT ranged from 43.7% (Essex) to 57.0% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the routine 70 year old cohort, and from 43.3% (Essex) to 55.7% (Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (table).

Discussion

Provisional cumulative shingles vaccine coverage estimates to the end of May 2016 indicate a decline in coverage of 1.8% for the routine cohort compared to May 2015. Coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort also dropped, by 1.4% compared to May 2015. 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, and ensure those who are approaching their 80th birthday do not miss out on the opportunity to get vaccinated [6].

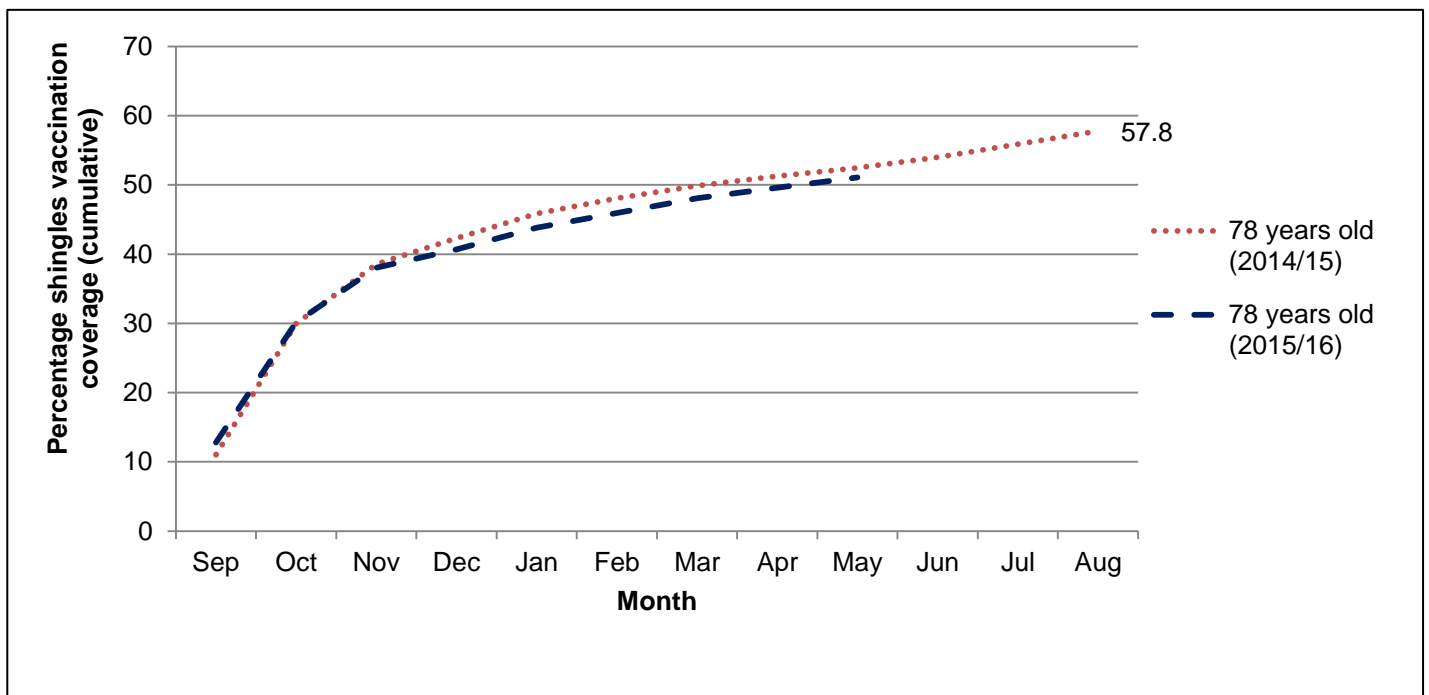
Finalised annual coverage data for the 2015/16 shingles programme is due to be published in autumn 2016.

Figure 1. Monthly cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for the routine cohort (70 year olds) for



September 2015 to May 2016, compared to 2014/15 and 2013/14 data, England

Figure 2. Monthly cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for the catch-up cohort (78 year olds) for September 2015 to May 2016, 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)

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage to end May 2016 by age cohort and Area Team, England

Area Team (code)	% of practices reporting data in May 2016	% coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	% coverage, catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral (Q44)	97.6	57.0	55.7
Durham, Darlington and Tees (Q45)	94.7	52.7	51.3
Greater Manchester (Q46)	95.6	50.6	49.2
Lancashire (Q47)	96.4	51.8	52.1
Merseyside (Q48)	90.3	48.9	49.8
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Q49)	97.6	54.3	54.7
N Yorkshire and Humber (Q50)	99.1	51.3	51.5
S Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Q51)	96.1	52.1	51.1
W Yorkshire (Q52)	98.8	51.2	51.6
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Q53)	96.5	54.0	54.4
Birmingham and Black Country (Q54)	93.3	48.0	47.7
Derbyshire and Notts. (Q55)	98.1	53.7	51.7
East Anglia (Q56)	97.2	53.4	53.7
Essex (Q57)	98.8	43.7	43.3
Hertfordshire and the S Midlands (Q58)	97.1	51.1	52.1
Leicestershire and Lincolnshire (Q59)	97.5	52.9	50.8
Shropshire and Staffordshire (Q60)	90.3	52.7	54.4
Bath, Gloucs. Swindon and Wiltshire (Q64)	97.9	52.7	53.3
Bristol, N Somerset, Somerset and S Gloucs. (Q65)	93.5	54.2	55.6
Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles (Q66)	94.6	52.0	52.0
Kent and Medway (Q67)	92.8	50.3	50.9
Surrey and Sussex (Q68)	95.7	50.0	51.6
Thames Valley (Q69)	92.1	54.7	55.0
Wessex (Q70)	94.8	51.4	52.5
London (Q71)	95.6	43.8	44.6
ENGLAND	95.7	51.0	51.1

References

1. PHE (2015). [Herpes zoster \(shingles\) immunisation programme 2013/2014: Report for England, 2015](#).
 2. [Shingles vaccine coverage report \(England\), April 2014 to March 2015](#). HPR 9(26), July 2015
 3. NHS England (2015). [Who can have the shingles vaccine?](#)
 4. NHS England (2015). [Who's eligible for the shingles vaccine in 2015/16 and beyond?](#)
 5. PHE (2016). [Shingles \(herpes zoster\): the green book, chapter 28a](#).
 6. PHE (2016). [Approaching 80? Make sure you have had your shingles vaccine](#).
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