



Infection report

Volume 11 Number 4 Published on: 27 January 2017

Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September to November 2016

Provisional cumulative vaccine coverage estimates show 33.2% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 33.6% coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Compared with November 2015, coverage has decreased by 4.6% for both the routine and catch-up cohorts.

Introduction

This report describes the first quarter (September to November 2016) of the fourth year of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England, comparing cumulative vaccine coverage estimates with the first quarter of the 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [1,2,3].

In this year of the programme (1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017) shingles vaccine is routinely offered to adults aged 70 years old on 1 September 2016 (born between 2 September 1945 and 1 September 1946) and to a catch-up cohort comprised of adults aged 78 years old on 1 September 2016 (born between 2 September 1937 and 1 September 1938). GPs may continue to offer immunisation to anyone who was eligible for shingles vaccine in the first three years of the programme but has not yet been vaccinated, up until their 80th birthday. This includes people aged 71, 72, 73 or 79 on 1 September 2016 [4,5,6,7].

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for individuals with severe immunosuppression. 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](#)) [8].

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 vaccine coverage as the total number of patients aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2016 **who have ever received the vaccination** (numerator) as a proportion of the number of patients registered aged 70 or 78 years on 1 September 2016 (denominator).

* 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

This report describes vaccine coverage of each eligible cohort for England and by NHS England Local Team (LT). Vaccine coverage estimates by Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and former Area Team (AT) for trend analysis, are published [here](#).

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 2016 (figures 1 and 2) include data from only three of four IT suppliers, representing 59% and 42% of GP practices respectively. Coverage estimates to November 2016 include data from all four IT suppliers.

Results

In total 7,063/7,507 (94.1%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in November 2016. This ranged by LT from 89.9% of practices in South (South East) to 98.1% of practices in Midlands and East (East) (table).

Overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme was 33.2% in November 2016 for the routine 70 year old cohort (compared to 37.8% in November 2015, 39.8% in November 2014 and 37.9% in November 2013 for the 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 cohorts respectively) and 33.6% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (compared to 38.2 in November 2015 and 38.6% in November 2014 for the 2015/16 and 2014/15 cohorts respectively) (see figures 1 and 2).

Coverage by LT ranged from 28.3% (London) to 37.9% (Cumbria and North East) for the routine 70 year old cohort, and from 29.9% (London) to 37.3% (Cheshire and Merseyside) for the 78 year old catch-up cohort (table). Decreases in coverage between November 2015 and November 2016 have been observed across all LTs (ranging from 2.6% to 6.0% decrease for the routine cohort, 2.7% to 6.7% decrease for the catch-up cohort). This decrease was also observed at the local level; 207/236 CCGs showed a decrease in coverage for the routine 70 year old cohort and 197/236 CCGs for the 78 year old catch-up cohort.

Discussion

Provisional cumulative shingles vaccine coverage estimates to the end of November 2016 show decreases of 4.6% for both the routine and catch-up cohorts compared to November 2015, representing the lowest recorded November coverage for both cohorts since the programme began.

There are a number of factors that are thought to have contributed to the gradual decline in shingles vaccine coverage each year since its introduction. These include difficulties in practices identifying the eligible patients during busy influenza immunisation clinics, a lack of call/re-call in the service specification to allow mop-up sessions for those who missed immunisations during the flu season, patients receiving flu vaccine at pharmacies or other providers than their GP practice and therefore are not identified for shingles vaccination during flu immunisation sessions, and possible lowering of patients' awareness of the vaccine since its introduction in 2013.

In addition to produced tools to help identify eligible individuals quickly [6,7], PHE is promoting the need for shingles vaccines through professional channels [9] and considering a range of possible approaches to simplify the programme and associated eligibility criteria.

Previous cohorts remain eligible for vaccination. It is important that GPs continue to offer the shingles vaccine to eligible patients from the current and previous cohorts in order to prevent the significant burden of disease associated with shingles among older adults in England.

References

1. Public Health England, [Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2015 to November 2015](#). HPR, 2016. **10**(4).
2. Public Health England, [Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September to November 2014](#). HPR, 2015. **9**(3).
3. 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>
4. Public Health England. *Shingles immunisation programme letter*. 2014; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-immunisation-programme-letter>
5. NHS England. *Who can have the shingles vaccine?* 2015; Available from: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/who-can-have-the-shingles-vaccine.aspx>
6. Public Health England. *Who is eligible for the 2016 to 2017 shingles vaccine?* 2016; Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/who-is-eligible-for-the-2015-to-2016-shingles-vaccine>
7. PHE. *Shingles vaccination for adults aged 70, 78 or 79 years of age: calculator*. 2016. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-vaccination-for-adults-aged-70-78-or-79-years-of-age-calculator>
8. 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>
9. Public Health England. *Shingles vaccination: training slideset for healthcare professionals*. 2016. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-vaccination-training-slideset-for-healthcare-professionals>

Figure 1. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the routine cohort (70 year old) for September to November 2016, compared to 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 data, England

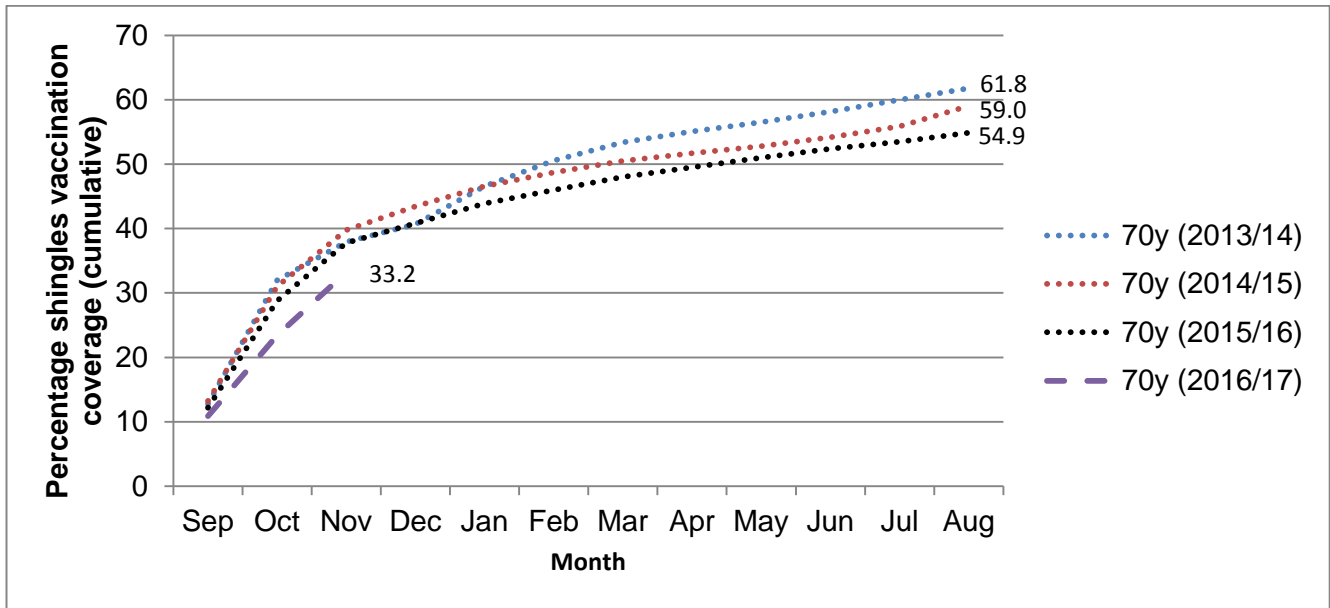
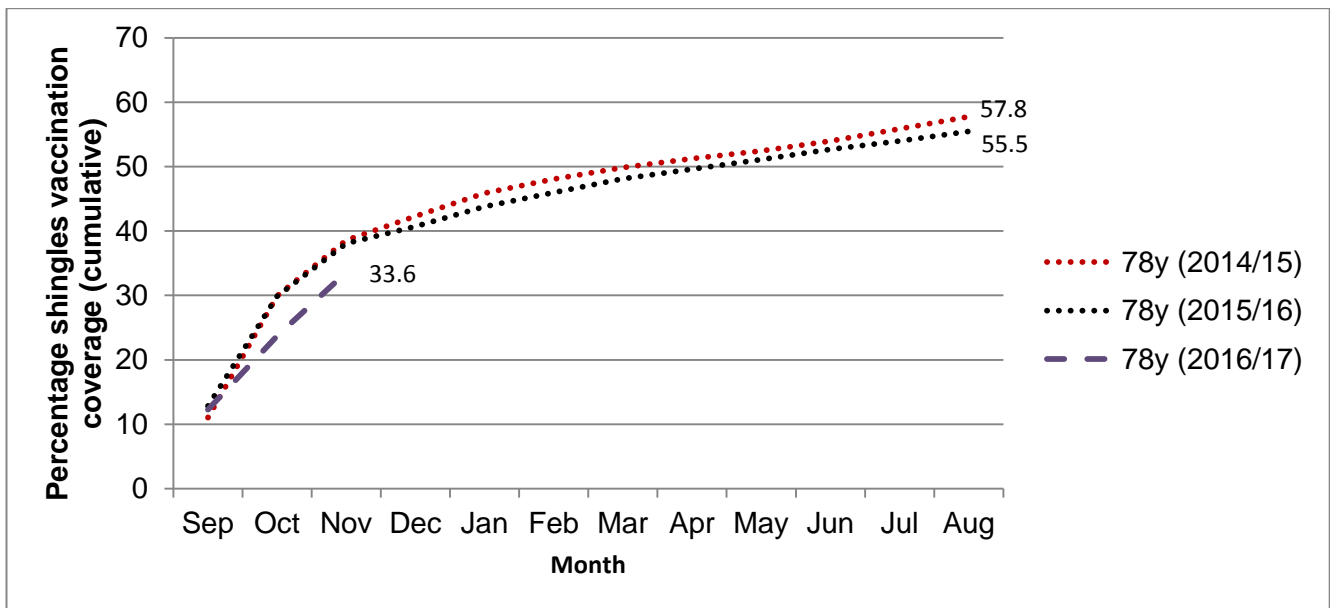


Figure 2. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the catch-up cohort (78 year old) for September to November 2016, compared to 2015/16 and 2014/15 data, England



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 2016 by age cohort and Local Team, England

Local Team	Percent of practices reporting data in November 2016	Percent coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	Percent coverage in catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
NHS England London	93.5	28.3	29.9
NHS England Midlands and East (Central Midlands)	97.5	34.4	33.9
NHS England Midlands and East (East)	98.1	32.3	32.2
NHS England Midlands and East (North Midlands)	92.3	33.9	32.8
NHS England Midlands and East (West Midlands)	93.3	32.8	33.2
NHS England North (Cheshire and Merseyside)	92.7	35.6	37.3
NHS England North (Cumbria and North East)	92.3	37.9	37.2
NHS England North (Lancashire and Greater Manchester)	92.9	34.3	34.4
NHS England North (Yorkshire and Humber)	97.2	34.2	32.9
NHS England South (South Central)	94.4	34.7	36.4
NHS England South (South East)	89.9	32.6	33.8
NHS England South (South West)	93.0	31.0	32.4
NHS England South (Wessex)	96.6	32.4	34.7
ENGLAND	94.1	33.2	33.6