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Shingles vaccine coverage report, England, September 2016 to February 2017

Provisional cumulative vaccine coverage estimates up to the end of February 2017 show 42.0% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 42.4% coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Compared with February 2016, coverage is 4.0% lower for the routine and 3.6% lower for the catch-up cohort.

Introduction

A report describing the first quarter of the fourth year (September 2016 to November 2016) of the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination programme in England was published in January 2017 [1]. Here we present cumulative data to the end of the second quarter of the programme, comparing cumulative vaccine coverage estimates with the same time point in the 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [2,3,4].

In the fourth year of this 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 [5,6,7,8].

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for immunosuppressed individuals. 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](#)) [9].

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.

All four GP IT suppliers provided data during the second quarter. In total 6,925/7,456 (92.9%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data in February 2017. This ranged by LT from 89.0% of practices in North (Cumbria and North East) to 97.1% of practices in Midlands and East (Central Midlands) (table).

Results

Overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme was 42.0% in February 2017 for the routine 70 year old cohort. This was lower than 70 year old cohorts in previous years at the same point in time (46.0% in February 2016, 48.7% in February 2015 and 50.5% in February 2014). Coverage in the 78-year-old catch-up cohort was 42.4% compared to 46% of 78-year-olds in February 2016 and 48.1% of 78 year olds in February 2015 (see figures 1 and 2).

Coverage by LT ranged from 35.0% (London) to 45.9% (Cumbria and North East) for the routine 70 year old cohort, and from 36.9% (London) to 46.1% South (South Central) for the 78-year-old catch-up cohort (see table). Decreases in coverage between February 2016 and February 2017 have been observed across all LTs (ranging from 2.2% to 5.3% decrease for the routine cohort, 1.4% to 5.5% decrease for the catch-up cohort). At the CCG level, between February 2016 and February 2017) coverage has also decreased in 173/212 (82%) CCGs for the routine 70-year-old cohort and in 162/212 (76%) CCGs for the 78-year-old catch-up cohort.

Discussion

Provisional cumulative shingles vaccine coverage estimates to end-February 2017 show decreases of 4.0% and 3.6% for the routine and catch-up cohorts respectively compared to February 2016. This continues the trend of lowest recorded shingles vaccination coverage for both cohorts since the programme began; possible explanations were suggested in the previous report [1].

Previous cohorts remain eligible for vaccination, and longer term vaccine coverage data has shown increases in coverage in these cohorts in subsequent years [10]. 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

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Figure 1. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the routine cohort (70 year olds) for September 2016 to February 2017, compared to 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 data, England

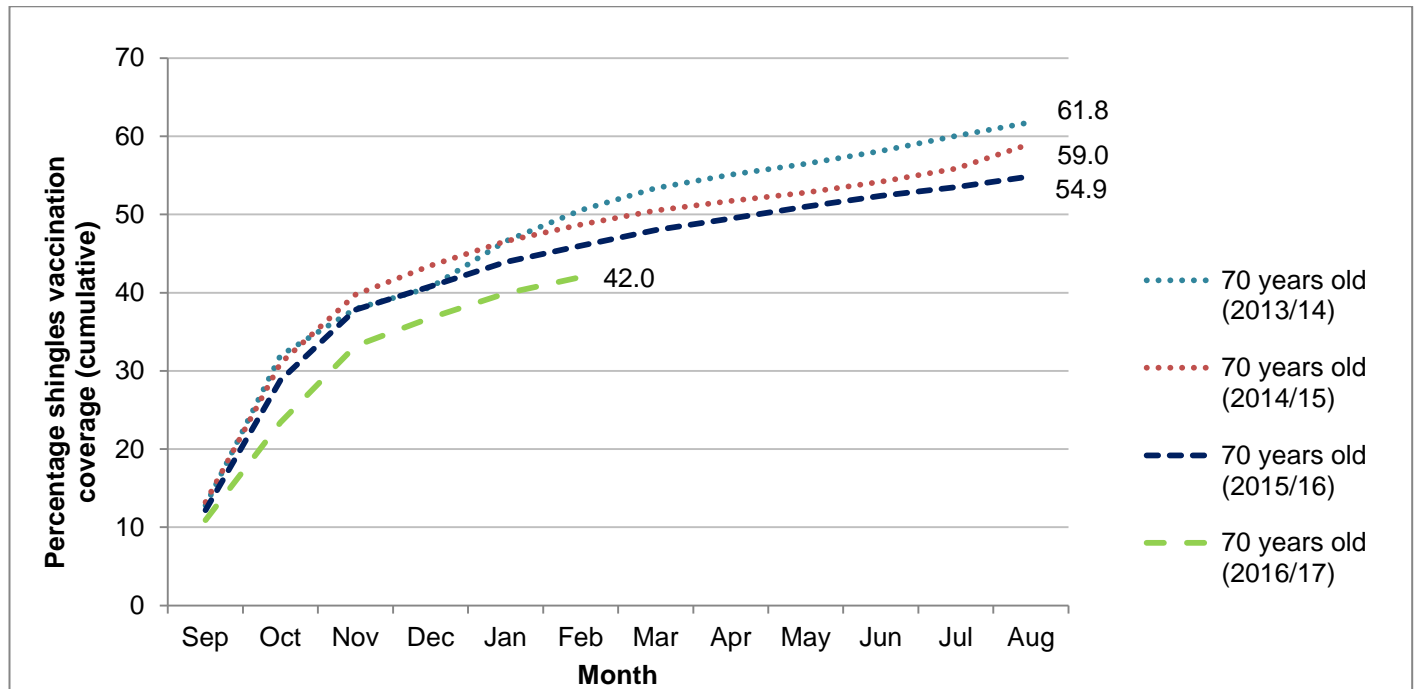
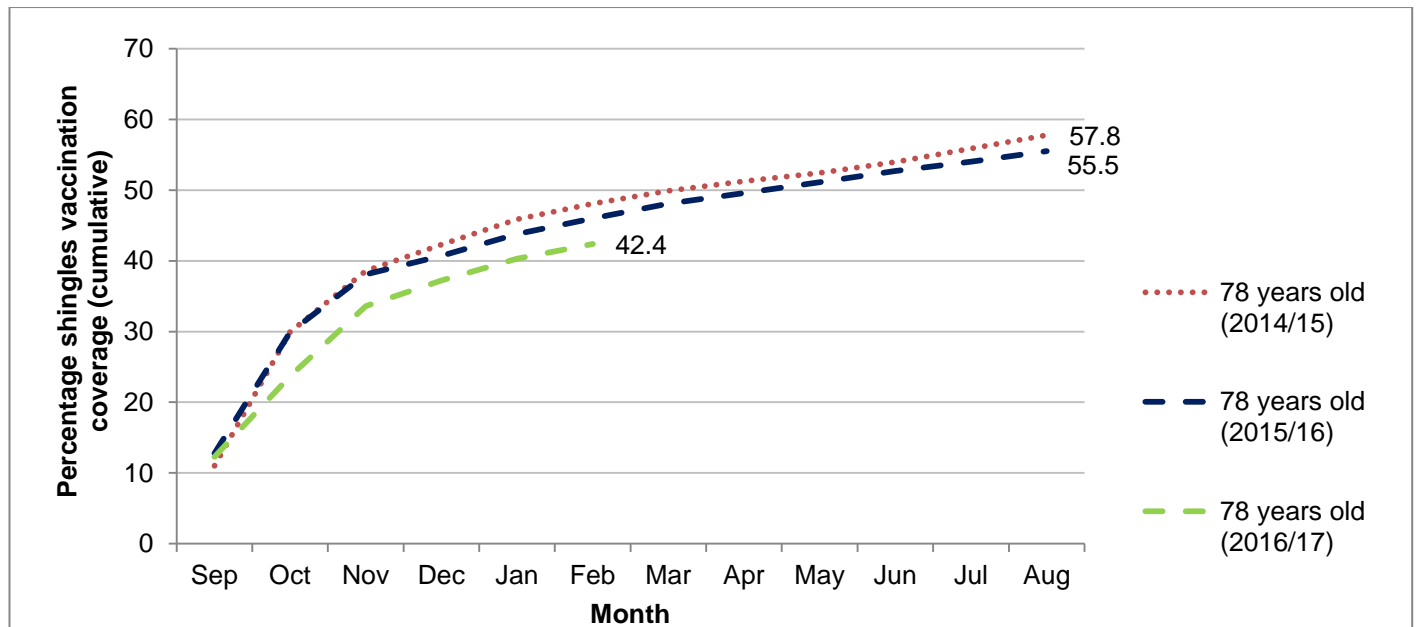


Figure 2. Monthly cumulative shingles coverage for the catch-up cohort (78 year olds) for September 2016 to February 2017, compared to 2015/16 and 2014/15 data, England



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

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage to end-February 2017 by age cohort and Local Team, England

Local Team	Percent of practices reporting data in February 2017	Percent coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	Percent coverage in catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
NHS England London	91.9	35.0	36.9
NHS England Midlands and East (Central Midlands)	97.1	43.3	41.6
NHS England Midlands and East (East)	97.0	41.4	41.2
NHS England Midlands and East (North Midlands)	91.9	43.4	42.7
NHS England Midlands and East (West Midlands)	89.1	41.5	42.3
NHS England North (Cheshire and Merseyside)	92.2	43.1	45.1
NHS England North (Cumbria and North East)	89.0	45.9	44.7
NHS England North (Lancashire and Greater Manchester)	92.7	41.9	42.1
NHS England North (Yorkshire and Humber)	97.0	42.6	41.9
NHS England South (South Central)	95.4	44.3	46.1
NHS England South (South East)	90.9	42.0	43.8
NHS England South (South West)	89.6	42.8	42.8
NHS England South (Wessex)	93.5	43.0	44.3
ENGLAND	92.9	42.0	42.4