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# **Shingles (quarter 1) vaccine coverage report (adults eligible from April to June 2019 and vaccinated to end of September 2019) in England**

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# Shingles (quarter 1) vaccine coverage report (adults eligible from April to June 2019 and vaccinated to end of September 2019) in England

## Key points

- this is the first quarterly shingles report of the fiscal year 2019/20 based on post-April 2017 eligibility criteria (see Introduction, below), evaluating those eligible for the shingles vaccine from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 (“quarter 1”), assessed at the end of September 2019
- the routine and catch-up shingles vaccination programme offers the shingles vaccine to those turning 70 and 78 years old. Adults remain eligible until their 80th birthday
- cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for all earlier routine cohorts (offered at 70 and now aged 72 to 76 years old) continues to increase year-on-year through opportunistic vaccination
- cumulative shingles vaccine coverage at the end of September 2019 was highest among 76 year olds (76.2%) and lowest among 71 year olds (37.8%)
- provisional vaccine coverage estimates for adults who became eligible for the shingles vaccine from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 is similar to last year at 21.1% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 21.3% coverage for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. Coverage is 1.5 and 0.8 percentage points higher for 70 and 78 year olds compared to quarter 1 last year
- further quarterly assessments of coverage in this three-month birth cohort will be undertaken in December 2019, March 2019, and June 2019. These data will be published in future quarterly reports

## Introduction

The shingles vaccination programme began on 1 September 2013. The aim of the programme is to offer routine vaccination to all 70 year olds each year, with a catch-up programme for older cohorts each year until 2020/21 to capture individuals born up to 1 September 1942 (i.e. aged 71 to 79 years on 1 September 2013 at the programme launch). For the first five years, vaccine coverage of the vaccination programme was monitored in England by PHE through monthly cumulative collections via automatic uploads of GP practice-level data using the ImmForm website and regular estimates of coverage published on the PHE website [1].

From 1 April 2017 the eligibility criteria for receiving shingles vaccine changed and individuals become eligible on their 70th birthday (routine cohort) or their 78th birthday (catch-up cohort) and remain eligible up to their 80th birthday [2-5].

GPs may continue to offer immunisation to anyone who was eligible for shingles vaccine in the first five years of the programme but has not yet been vaccinated, up until their 80th birthday [1]. This includes people currently aged 71 through to those aged 77 years old born after 1 September 1942, or 78 to 79 years old [1-4]. 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 *Immunisation against infectious disease* (the Green Book) [5].

To continue to accurately evaluate vaccine coverage for the shingles programme in 2018/19, PHE has changed the specification for the ImmForm data extractions from GP IT systems and the methodology for the calculation of vaccine coverage to reflect the new delivery model. This is the second year reporting quarterly cumulative coverage that reflects the new delivery model.

This first quarterly report of data extracted using the revised specification presents the initial herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine coverage data for adults who turned 70 for the routine cohort or 78 for the catch-up cohort between 1 April 2019 and 30 June 2019, evaluated at the end of September 2019. Vaccine coverage this quarter may be compared to coverage in quarter 1 in 2018/19; however, data for adults who have become eligible under the revised criteria are not directly comparable to previous cumulative vaccine coverage estimates using the former eligibility criteria from the 2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14 programmes [6].

## Methods

This report presents cumulative vaccine coverage for all adults eligible for the shingles vaccine (turning 70 to 77 and 78 to 80 years old between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020) vaccinated by 23 September 2019. GP practice-level shingles vaccine coverage data are automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm website on a quarterly basis. These data are then validated and analysed by PHE to check data completeness, identify and query any anomalous results and describe epidemiological trends. This quarterly survey extracted coverage estimates as at 23 September 2019 for each financial year birth cohort (1 April to 30 June births) for individuals born between 1 April 1939 and 31 March 1949, ie aged 71 years to 80 years (minus future catch-up cohorts born 1 April 1942 to 2 September 1942 inclusive). This report also presents vaccine coverage for adults who turned 70 (routine cohort) and 78 years old (catch-up cohort) during quarter 1 (between 1 April 2019 and 30 June 2019) and vaccinated by 23 September 2019 (Table 1). The survey measures vaccine coverage as the total number of patients turning 70 or 78 who received the shingles vaccine prior to 23 September 2019 (numerator) as a proportion of the total number of registered patients turning 70 or 78 between 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 (quarter 1), (denominator). By collecting the data in late September, we allowed those eligible in quarter 1 between 3 to 6 months to receive the vaccine, depending on date of birth (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Birth range and collection dates for both the routine (70 year olds) and catchup (78 year olds) cohorts for quarter one of 2019/20.

Quarter and age		Eligible birth dates	Data collected from
Quarter 1	70 years	01/04/1949 - 30/06/1949	01/04/2019 - 23/09/2019
	78 years	01/04/1941 - 30/06/1941	

## Results

### Participation and data quality

A total of 6,587/ 6,795 (96.9%) GP practices reported shingles vaccine coverage data for the first quarter.

### Vaccine coverage for fiscal year (April to March) birth cohorts, as at 23 September 2019

- vaccine coverage for each earlier routine cohorts (aged 71 to 75 years) continues to increase year on year through opportunistic vaccination
- the highest coverage is observed among 76 year olds, who were offered the shingles vaccine in the earliest routine cohort six years ago (Table 2)
- the lowest coverage is observed among 71 (37.8%) and 79 year olds (39.6%) who became eligible for the routine and catch-up vaccination in 2018/19 (Table 2)
- vaccine coverage was also low among 77 year olds, as half of 77 year olds will not be eligible for the vaccine until their 78<sup>th</sup> birthday as part of the final catch-up cohort

### Routine and catch-up cohort coverage – April to June 2019 (as at 23 September 2019)

- overall 21.1% of adults that turned 70 and 21.3% of adults that turned 78 during quarter 1 (from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019) were vaccinated by the end of September 2019 (Table 3)
- coverage remained similar to coverage in 2018. Coverage was 1.5 and 0.8 percentage points greater vaccine coverage in quarter 1 in 2018 (from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018)

Table 2. National cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for adults turning 71 to 76 (previous routine cohorts) and 79 to 80 (previous catch-up cohorts) years old between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and vaccinated by end September 2019, by NHS Local Team.

NHS Local Team	Routine Cohort								Catch-up cohort	
	Practices reporting data on 23/09/19 (%)	71 year olds	72 year olds	73 year olds	74 year olds	75 year olds	76 year olds	77 year olds*	79 year olds**	80 year olds
		Eligible since 2018	Eligible since 2017	Eligible since 2016	Eligible since 2015	Eligible since 2014	Eligible since 2013	Eligible since 2013	Eligible since 2018	Eligible since 2017
East of England	98.8	38.0	50.5	58.1	65.7	72.6	75.1	45.7	37.6	51.9
London	95.3	34.5	48.0	55.8	63.1	68.3	71.6	45.2	37.2	48.6
Midlands (Central Midlands)	99.3	34.5	48.5	56.6	66.8	72.3	76.9	47.3	35.1	49.8
Midlands (North Midlands)	96.7	39.6	53.1	60.9	68.2	74.4	77.5	47.1	40.8	53.8
Midlands (West Midlands)	96.0	36.1	50.0	58.4	66.7	72.5	75.6	46.3	38.5	52.5
North East and Yorkshire (Cumbria and North East)	99.2	40.1	52.6	60.9	69.5	75.0	77.7	47.1	40.8	53.6
North East and Yorkshire (Yorkshire and Humber)	98.5	38.9	53.4	60.2	67.4	73.6	76.7	46.4	39.7	53.2
North West (Cheshire and Merseyside)	98.9	37.5	49.8	59.9	68.8	74.3	77.0	46.6	39.9	52.3
North West (Greater Manchester)	96.0	35.9	49.3	58.7	66.5	72.6	75.2	45.4	37.8	50.8
North West (Lancashire and South Cumbria)	95.8	38.8	51.8	60.3	69.8	74.9	77.9	46.6	40.8	53.5
South East (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Thames Valley)	97.2	41.1	54.5	62.9	70.6	76.2	79.3	48.5	43.5	56.9
South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	93.4	37.8	51.2	60.5	68.1	72.8	75.9	46.4	41.5	54.4
South West (South West North)	98.0	40.0	54.1	62.0	69.9	75.1	78.5	47.4	42.6	56.4
South West (South West South)	97.6	37.1	50.9	59.2	67.3	73.1	75.9	47.5	39.6	55.4
<b>England</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>53.0</b>

\* Observed coverage is low in the 77 year olds as half (those born in 1 April 1942 to 1 September 1942) will not become eligible until their 78th birthday in 2020, whereas half (those born 2 September 1942 to 31 March 1943) were offered the vaccine as part of the first routine programme in 2013/14

\*\* Adults aged 79 were first eligible for the catch-up vaccine in 2018/19

Table 3. Shingles vaccine coverage for adults turning 70 and 78 between 1 April 2019 and 30 June 2019 and vaccinated prior to 23 September 2019, by NHS England Local Team

NHS England Local Team	Percent of practices reporting data on 23 September 2019	Percent coverage in routine cohort (70 year olds)	Percent coverage in catch-up cohort (78 year olds)
East of England	98.8	22.9	20.9
London	95.3	16.5	16.1
Midlands (Central Midlands)	99.3	20.0	18.4
Midlands (North Midlands)	96.7	22.0	23.0
Midlands (West Midlands)	96.0	17.6	19.0
North East and Yorkshire (Cumbria and North East)	99.2	23.8	22.9
North East and Yorkshire (Yorkshire and Humber)	98.5	23.2	23.0
North West (Cheshire and Merseyside)	98.9	20.6	21.9
North West (Greater Manchester)	96.0	17.8	19.5
North West (Lancashire and South Cumbria)	95.8	22.0	21.8
South East (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Thames Valley)	97.2	22.9	23.0
South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	93.4	20.2	22.6
South West (South West North)	98.0	23.2	24.7
South West (South West South)	97.6	21.6	22.8
<b>England</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>

## Discussion

Shingles coverage for this quarter was similar to last year at 21.1% coverage for the 70 year old routine cohort and 21.3% for the catch-up cohort. Vaccine coverage cannot be compared with estimates prior to 2018 to 2019 due to the new eligibility criteria and coverage calculation methodology.

Subsequent cumulative quarterly evaluations of this quarterly birth cohort at the end of December 2019, and March and June 2020 should show increasing coverage as vaccinations received later in the 70th/78th year are captured.

Previous routine and catch-up cohorts remain eligible for vaccination until their 80th birthday, and longer term vaccine coverage data has shown increases in coverage in these cohorts in subsequent years (Table 2) [7]. The large difference in coverage between 77 year olds and younger cohorts is likely in part to be associated to the eligibility criteria as half of the 77 year olds would have already received their vaccine

on their 70th birthday as part of the routine programme in 2013/14 and the other had will not become eligible until their 78th birthday in 2020.

It is important that GPs continue to offer the shingles vaccine to all eligible patients from the current and previous cohorts (particularly the 71 and 79 year olds who may have missed the vaccine when there was a change in the eligibility criteria) in order to prevent an increased susceptibility to shingles among these cohorts.

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