



This, the third special issue of *Vaccine Update* in September, deals with the temporary suspension of the acceptance of orders for Zostavax following the recent capping of orders.

## Vaccine supply

### Zostavax<sup>®</sup> temporarily unavailable

Issue 205 of *Vaccine Update* (September 2013) set out details of the new shingles immunisation programme, that started on 1 September 2013. Initially, the vaccination is being provided to men and women aged 70 and 79 on that date.

Based on assurances of continuity of supply from the manufacturer (Sanofi Pasteur MSD) national distribution of Zostavax<sup>®</sup> vaccine began on 1 August 2013. However, due to an on-going delay in the supply of the vaccine into the UK, PHE has temporarily removed Zostavax<sup>®</sup> from the ImmForm website, and it is not currently available to order. We expect further limited deliveries during October, at which point ordering will be resumed, with more substantial volumes due in November and December. It is likely that the order level cap for England will remain in place during this period. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Multiple ordering to circumvent the cap has presented a number of challenges both for the distributor in distributing those orders, and for PHE in managing the remaining stock. Further orders will be monitored.

When ordering resumes, Zostavax<sup>®</sup> must only be ordered for the **70 year old and 79 year old cohorts** this year. Please do not stockpile the vaccine as the vaccine is expensive and it is important to minimise wastage. Please note that the vaccine can be administered to the two eligible cohorts at any time between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014.

Customers should refer to the ImmForm website at

[web link 1 www.immform.dh.gov.uk/SignIn.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f](http://www.immform.dh.gov.uk/SignIn.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f)

for the latest information on vaccine availability, or contact [vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk](mailto:vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk)