**Zostavax – Shingles Vaccination**

**70 years old +**

ZOSTAVAX® Powder and solvent for suspension for injection in a pre-filled syringe shingles (herpes zoster) vaccine (live)

Patient Information Leaflet: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.6101.pdf>

**Important information about your vaccination**

Before you have your Shingles Vaccination please read carefully and inform the nurse if you answer **YES** to any of the below questions. Thank you.

* Do you have a fever or feel very unwell?
* Have you had any other vaccinations in the last 4 weeks?
* Have you had any reactions to any previous vaccinations?
* Do you have any allergies including neomycin & gelatin?
* Do you have a lowered immune system for any reason i.e. medication / disease / cancer or leukaemia?
* Have you had chemotherapy or radiotherapy in the last 6 months?
* Have you had biological therapy (eg anti-TNF therapy) in the last 12 months?
* Are you on high dose oral steroids?
* Do you have kidney failure or CKD stage 4 or 5?
* Are you HIV + ?
* Do you have active untreated tuberculosis?
* Have you had immunosuppressive treatment therapy in the last 14 days?
* Have you had a solid organ or stem cell transplant?
* Are you on Methotrexate, Azathioprine or 6-Mercaptopurine?
* Have you taken an anti-viral drugs in the last week?
* Have you had shingles in the last 12 months?
* Are you due to commence Chemotherapy, Immuno-suppressive or Biological Therapy in the next 14 days?

**If you develop a rash after receiving the vaccination please contact the surgery by telephone to speak to one of our nurses**

**General side effects you can expect to experience after the Shingles vaccination**

* Some people will develop slight tenderness, redness and sometimes swelling at the site of the injection.
* A small number may experience slight fever, headache, general aching and malaise approximately 24 hours after the vaccination, lasting about 24 hours.
* You are advised to take regular analgesia to reduce your temperature (e.g. paracetamol if this is suitable for you) and to drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids.
* A cold compress applied to the site of the injection may relieve the discomfort.
* In extremely rare circumstances, a person can have an immediate and sometimes severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

**COVID-19 If you do not feel better and your fever does not subside after 1-2 days following the vaccination please seek advice from your GP or Practice Nurse. If you also have developed a loss of taste or smell and/or a persistent cough you need to get tested for Covid-19** [**https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus**](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)