

September 14, 2016

## Shingles Vaccine to be added to Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Persons 65 to 70 Years of Age

Following the public launch, in mid-September, you can offer herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine to your patients, ages 65 to 70 years of age.

### Quick facts:

- Zostavax<sup>®</sup> II is a live, attenuated vaccine. Vaccine efficacy is 51% for herpes zoster incidence and 66% for post-herpetic neuralgia.
- Vaccine is administered subcutaneously and can be given to clients with or without a prior history of herpes zoster.
- The vaccine should be given at least one year following the last episode of HZ.
- There is no current recommendation for booster doses. Efficacy of protection has not been assessed beyond 7 years.
- Vaccine can be concomitantly administered with trivalent influenza vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax<sup>®</sup> 23) at different injection sites.

Please submit your vaccine orders via the Ontario Government Pharmacy. Use the updated [order form](#).

### For more information

- Patient Fact Sheet and Q&As for Health Care Providers will be available on the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, [Health Professionals website](#)
- Canadian Immunization Guide, [Herpes Zoster \(Shingles\) Vaccine](#)