

March 7, 2019

Limited Supply of Shingles Vaccine

Current orders for publicly funded Zostavax®II vaccine may not be filled due to limited supply. Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS) anticipates the shortage will be resolved in June 2019.

Publicly Funded Vaccine

- Zostavax®II is publicly funded for adults 65 to 70 years of age
- Prioritize vaccination for clients before their 71st birthday [prior to July 2019]
- Zostavax®II is a live vaccine
- Contraindications include:
 - allergies to neomycin, porcine gelatin
 - primary and acquired immunocompromised states
 - recent use or are currently using immune suppressive medications
 - active untreated tuberculosis
- Use caution for clients receiving low-dose immunosuppressive medications including corticosteroids. Consider expert consultation before vaccination.

Not Publicly Funded Vaccine

- Shingrix® vaccine is not publicly funded
- the recombinant subunit vaccine is given in two doses
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends this vaccine preferentially for individual 50 years of age and older without contraindications.
- This vaccine is also in short supply on the private market.

References: Canadian Immunization Guide, Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule