

October 6, 2020

## Publicly Funded Shingles Vaccine Changing to Shingrix®

There are two herpes zoster vaccines authorized in Canada:

trade name	Zostavax®II (LZV)	Shingrix® (RZV)
vaccine type	live attenuated	recombinant subunit (adjuvanted)
indicated	≥ 50 years of age	≥ 50 years of age
schedule	1 dose	2 doses, 2-6 months apart
route	subcutaneous	intramuscular

Beginning mid-October, Ontario's publicly funded shingles program will change vaccine to Shingrix®. Current supplies of publicly funded Zostavax®II (LZV) expire in October 2020.

**Shingrix® is publicly funded for 2 doses in adults ages 65 to 70 years, who have not previously received the publicly funded LZV.**

- Adults, who received a dose of publicly funded Zostavax®II are not eligible for the free Shingrix® vaccine.
- Adults who previously paid for Zostavax®II are eligible for 2 doses.
- Adults, who are turning 71 in 2020 or 2021, and missed getting vaccinated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are eligible for 2-doses of Shingrix® until December 31, 2021.

RZV (Shingrix®) is safe and effective for the prevention of shingles and its complications. The RZV efficacy remains higher and appears to decline more slowly, in all age groups, compared with LZV.

**Contraindications:** Known anaphylactic hypersensitivity to a previous dose of the vaccine, any of its components or vaccine container. Has no known allergens.

**NACI recommends:**

- Adults, who were previously vaccinated with LZV should re-vaccinate with two doses of RZV at least one year after receiving LZV.
- Individuals with a previous episode of herpes zoster disease. Provide two doses of RZV at least one year after herpes zoster episode.
- May be considered for immunocompromised individuals, on a case-by-case assessment of the benefits vs risks.

### Concomitant Administration

Shingrix® vaccines may be given at the same time with unadjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccine. Fever and shivering were more frequent when PPV23 vaccine is co-administered with RZV.

### Adverse events

RZV is more likely to cause systemic adverse events, including fatigue, myalgia, headache. Local and systemic reactions that were severe enough to interfere with normal activities have been more frequently reported following the receipt of RZV than LZV. However, these reactions have been temporary (lasting 2-3 days). Patient education on the short-term reactogenicity of the RZV is recommended prior to vaccine administration to promote adherence to the second dose.

### Summary of NACI recommendation vs. eligibility for publicly funded RZV

	NACI recommend	Eligible for publicly funded RZV	Private purchase
50 to 64 years	✓		✓
65 – 70 years, have not received RZV	✓	✓	
turning 71 in 2020/2021, have not received LZV	✓	✓ <i>until Dec 31, 2021</i>	
65 – 70 years, received publicly funded LZV	✓		✓
65 – 70 years, received LZV, private purchase	✓	✓	