

## **Guidance on the Vaccination of Patients outside of commissioned cohorts**

We have been approached recently by a practice requesting guidance on the vaccination of patients who are outside of the usual commissioned cohorts and would like to share the following with you for clarification.

Requests have been made to General Practice – often made by the patients Acute Trust Consultant – to offer vaccinations in the following circumstances

- preceding clinical treatments e.g. the Shingles vaccine before commencement of biologic therapies
- post clinical interventions such as stem-cell transplants where there is a need to revaccinate the patient for all of their Childhood immunisations

Whilst it is recognised that the clinician requesting the vaccine can administer the immunisation themselves this may not be practicable for the patient who may be required to make a repeat journey to the hospital to access this. Often therefore the request is made for the patients practice to complete this activity on behalf of the Trust.

### **Shingles vaccination**

The following guidance has been taken from the document provided in the link below

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1052155/Shingles-vaccination-HCP-guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052155/Shingles-vaccination-HCP-guidance.pdf)

This states:

#### **Vaccination of patients outside of the national immunisation programme recommendations**

- GPs can apply their clinical discretion and provide Zostavax shingles vaccine, following a clinical assessment, to those who are not currently eligible for the national programme but who would benefit medically, for example those with underlying conditions which increase their risk of shingles. Vaccine supplied to practices free of charge via ImmForm **cannot be used** for this purpose. GP surgeries should order Zostavax vaccine directly from the manufacturer and then **reclaim the cost of the vaccine via the NHS BSA website**. The practice is also entitled to claim the Item of Service fee for this activity.
- The limited available supply of NHS Shingrix vaccine means that this vaccine should only be used in patients who are 70 to 79 years of age and in whom Zostavax is clinically contraindicated. A supply of Shingrix vaccine would need to be sourced privately for use outside the national programme.

- Individuals who are not eligible to receive either shingles vaccine as part of the national programme but who wish to pay for the vaccine privately should discuss their request with a private provider and should be made aware that they will be liable for the full cost of the vaccine and any additional administration charges that the private provider may apply.
- GPs are not able to charge their own patients registered at their practice a private fee for the vaccine and should not use centrally procured stock for the national programme to vaccinate private patients.

### Vaccine ordering

- Vaccines required for individuals who are **not** in the eligible cohort, for example where the practice has decided that it is clinically appropriate to vaccinate the patient, but they are under the age of 70 years, would require the GP practice to purchase the vaccine directly from the manufacturer and then reclaim the cost of the vaccine. The limited supply of Shingrix vaccine available means that Shingrix vaccine should only be used for patients who are 70 to 79 years of age where Zostavax is clinically contraindicated.

### Post Stem – Cell transplant

Revaccination of a patient after a stem cell transplant is a recognised intervention which is generally requested after post-transplant consultation from the patient's specialist.

NHSE/I have confirmed that in these circumstances vaccines offered by General Practice and form part of the routine immunisation schedule **can be taken from ImmForm stock held within the practice** and the Item of Service claimed as usual.