To avoid confusion, trade names will be used for the zoster vaccine live (ZVL) - “Zostavax™” and the zoster vaccine recombinant (RZV) “Shingrix™”.

The incidence of herpes zoster for persons 50 years and older is approximately four cases per 1,000 population per year. The incidence increases with age as does the likelihood of developing post herpetic neuralgia (PHN). Since 2006, the zoster-live vaccine (Zostavax™) is the only vaccine recommended for those 60 years and older to prevent herpes zoster and its’ complications. In October 2017, the FDA licensed a new herpes zoster subunit vaccine (Shingrix™). Less than a week after FDA licensure, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) gave a preferential recommendation for the use of Shingrix™ in all immunocompetent adults 50 years and older.

Shingrix™ vaccine consists of a protein subunit combined with an adjuvant (AS01B) system. It is a refrigerated vaccine that must be reconstituted and is administered in 2 doses, 2 months apart. Clinical trials have indicated that it is 97% effective in preventing herpes zoster in those 50-69 years and 91% effective in those 70 years and older. Efficacy against post herpetic neuralgia was 91% for participants 50 years and older. Overall, Shingrix™ efficacy was 98% in the first year following immunization and remained at ≥85% for the remaining three years of the Phase III study conducted by GlaxoSmithKline, the vaccine manufacturer. Over 37,000 study participants received the vaccine. Specific recommendations for immunosuppressed individuals are expected in February 2018.

One caveat - Shingrix™ was highly reactogenic. Over 13% of those receiving the vaccine reported symptoms including pain, myalgia, or chills - that may interfere with daily life for 1-2 days. Patients should be advised to expect a possible reaction. The ACIP noted that the benefits clearly outweigh the harms associated with reactogenicity.

**Ordering**: As soon as Shingrix™ is available to order from the CDC contract, the Immunization Program will make it available to all VFA practices for patients age 50-64 years.
FROM THE REGISTRY: SHINGRIX – CAN YOUR ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD HANDLE IT?

If your practice has decided to order and administer Shingrix, it will be important to be able to track in your electronic health record (and report to the Immunization Registry) that you have administered this new formulation, and not just “zoster.” Even if you are not going to administer Shingrix, you will want to be able to accurately record a dose of Shingrix administered elsewhere.

Talk with your EHR vendor to be sure that new vaccine CVX codes are being added to your system (See page 3). It may be necessary to specifically request that Shingrix and Zostavax and “Zoster, unspecified” are enabled as choices in your EHR. Make sure that your practice users are familiar with the fact that these two vaccines are very different, and should be recorded as such. We discourage the use of “unspecified” as that makes it difficult for another provider to determine whether an individual is up to date and can lead to unnecessary immunization.

How do you to figure out what a patient who has previously received zoster should receive? Log in to the Immunization Registry and use the Forecaster report or Recommendations button.

CVX CODES FOR ZOSTER VACCINES

Your Electronic Health Record should allow you to record the following immunizations, and store/send the CVX codes below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Antigen Name</th>
<th>Short Description</th>
<th>CVX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoster live</td>
<td>Zostavax</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoster Vaccine Recombinant</td>
<td>Shingrix</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoster, unspecified formulation</td>
<td>Zoster unspecified</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more detail or clarification, you may contact the Immunization Registry Manager at (802) 951-4094 or access one of the links below.


For a complete list of CVX codes, see: [https://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/iis/iisstandards/vaccines.asp?rpt=cvx](https://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/iis/iisstandards/vaccines.asp?rpt=cvx)