

Screening tool for the HZV (shingles) vaccine (Zostavax[®])

Question	Rationale
Are you well today?	General screening for acute moderate/severe illness.
Have you had a shingles vaccine before? Have you had any other live vaccines in last 4 weeks?	12 month gap between purchased HZV and funded HZV vaccination recommended. Live vaccines are either given on same day or with 4 week gap, to ensure adequate immune response to the second vaccine.
Have you ever had shingles?	Minimum gap of 12 months between disease and HZV vaccination recommended.
Have you ever had a serious allergic reaction?	Screening for history of anaphylaxis to vaccine or vaccine component e.g. neomycin or gelatin.
Are you taking any medication to prevent cold sores, herpes or shingles?	Antiviral medication needs to be stopped for 24 hours prior to HZV vaccination and for 14 days after vaccination. Antiviral medication can interfere with HZV vaccination and make it less effective. Patients on long-term antiviral medication should discuss the possible risk of disease flare-up from stopping the antiviral medication and risks and benefits of HZV vaccination with their health professional.
Do you have or have you ever had cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma, a transplant, stem cell therapy, TB or any condition that effects your immune system (including HIV/AIDS) or any blood disorders?	Screening for compromised immune system. Refer to sections 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 22.6.2 of the Immunisation Handbook 2017 2 nd Ed for more information. HZV vaccine is contraindicated or specialist opinion is required.
In the past 12 months have you taken any medications that affect your immune system such as oral steroids for asthma, COPD, sarcoidosis, other steroids, or anticancer drugs; drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or psoriasis?	Screening for medications that could cause immune system compromise Refer to table 22.2 in the Immunisation Handbook 2017 2 nd Ed for information on treatments and timing of vaccination. Check practice management system for any medications that are listed there. HZV vaccination is contraindicated or specialist opinion required.

Potential screening outcomes

- **There are no contraindications to HZV vaccination.** Follow your usual informed consent process, ensuring that you fully document this in the patient notes.
- **HZV vaccine is contraindicated.** Advise the patient of the outcome and why they cannot receive the vaccine.
- **Specialist opinion is required.** Let the patient know and discuss how the advice from the specialist will be sought and approximately when you will tell them whether they can have HZV vaccine or not.