

Pre-Vaccination screening tool for the ZV vaccine (Zostavax®)

Question	Rationale
This tool should be used in conjunction with standard pre-vaccination screening.	
Have you had any vaccines in last 4 weeks?	A gap of seven days is recommended between the mRNA-CV, and ZV. Live vaccines are either given on same day or with 4-week gap, to ensure adequate immune response to the second vaccine.
Have you had a shingles vaccine before?	12-month gap between purchased ZV and funded ZV vaccination recommended.
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 ZV vaccination and for 14 days after vaccination. Antiviral medication can interfere with ZV 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 ZV 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 diseases or medical conditions that could cause immune system compromise such as cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma, organ transplant, stem cell transplant, HIV/AIDS or any blood disorders. ZV may be contraindicated or a specialist opinion required. Refer to Chapter 4 of the Immunisation Handbook.
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 because vaccination with a live vaccine may be contraindicated or a specialist opinion required. For further information refer to Chapter 4 of the Immunisation Handbook section 4.3.2, 4.3.5 and 4.3.6. 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 ZV 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 ZV vaccine or not.