

Developed and  
funded by



# ***NHS shingles vaccination***

**This leaflet is intended  
for those who are 18  
years or over with a  
severely weakened  
immune system**

Contact your GP surgery (or your NHS immunisation team in Scotland) to book your shingles vaccination today.

Scan the QR code to see full eligibility criteria at GSK's website:



**GetShinglesReady.co.uk**

If you get any side effects, these should be reported to your doctor, nurse, or via the MHRA's website: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk>






# Get ready for your shingles vaccination

Vaccination against shingles is available for free on the NHS for eligible individuals. The programme is called the Shingles National Immunisation Programme. On 1st September 2025, the Shingles National Immunisation Programme changed, and more individuals are now eligible for a free shingles vaccination on the NHS.

## Eligibility for the free NHS shingles vaccination

### How old are you?

<b>Eligible</b>	<p>Years or older</p> <h1>18</h1> <p>with a severely weakened immune system</p> <p>You're eligible now</p> 	<p>Turning</p> <h1>65</h1> <p>You'll be eligible:</p> <p>From your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday if it is on/after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023</p> 	<h1>70</h1> <p>to</p> <h1>79</h1> <p>You're eligible now</p> 
<b>Not eligible</b>	<p>Under 18 with a severely weakened immune system</p>	<p>Under 65 without a severely weakened immune system you'll be eligible when you turn 65</p> <p>Born before 1st Sept 1958 – you'll be eligible when you turn 70</p>	<p>Over 80 without a severely weakened immune system</p>

## **What does it mean to have a severely weakened immune system?**

---

If you have a severely weakened immune system, also known as being severely immunocompromised, your immune system is not working properly.

There may be a number of reasons for this. It may be due to a medical condition, or the medication used to treat a medical condition.

The impact on your immune system function will vary.

---

## **Why is it important to get vaccinated against shingles if you have a severely weakened immune system?**

---

Individuals who have a severely weakened immune system are at a higher risk of shingles and its complications compared to those who have not.

**This is why shingles vaccination is recommended at an earlier age group for these patients.**

---

## **Which patients with a severely weakened immune system are considered eligible for a free shingles vaccination?**

---

Patients aged 18 years or older with a severely weakened immune system are eligible for a free NHS shingles vaccination on the National Immunisation Programme.

## The following patient groups are likely to be considered as having a severely weakened immune system:

---



Patients with some blood cancers e.g. specific types of leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma



Patients with HIV/AIDS with a CD4 count below 200cells/ $\mu$ l



Solid organ transplant recipients who are receiving (or recently received) immunosuppressant medication



Recipients of stem cell transplant in last 24 months (or more than 24 months ago if ongoing immunosuppression or Graft versus host disease)



Patients who are receiving (or recently received) immunosuppressive chemotherapy or radiotherapy for any type of cancer



Patients with chronic immune mediated inflammatory disease receiving (or who have received) immunosuppressive therapy *who are also receiving* moderate to high dose steroids, certain oral immune modulating drugs or specific combination therapies



Patients with some cellular or combined immune deficiencies



Patients with autoimmune diseases who are receiving (or recently received) targeted therapies or biologic immune modulators



Patients who have received high dose steroids for more than a week in the last month for any reason

**This is not a comprehensive list.**

**Contact your GP surgery (or your NHS immunisation team in Scotland) for more information to book your shingles vaccination.**

---

## What is shingles?<sup>1,2,3</sup>

---

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is caused by the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox.

Following a chickenpox infection, which typically occurs in childhood, the varicella zoster virus remains dormant in the body for life, usually not causing any problems or symptoms. Our immune system naturally weakens over time as we age which may allow the usually inactive virus to reactivate, causing shingles.

## Who is at risk?

---



**You are more likely to develop shingles as you get older, or if you have certain medical conditions or take medicines that significantly weaken your immune system<sup>2</sup>**



**Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk of developing shingles, with an estimated **1 in 4 lifetime risk** of shingles<sup>2</sup>**

## **How can I get my shingles vaccination if I am 18 years old or over with a severely weakened immune system?**

- Your GP surgery should have systems in place to identify you and will reach out to you to invite you for vaccination.
- However, if you are worried or think you are eligible and haven't been invited, Contact your GP surgery, doctor or nurse (or your NHS immunisation team in Scotland) who can advise you.

1. NHS. Shingles. 2023.
2. UKHSA Green Book Ch 28a. Shingles. 2024.
3. Johnson R et al. Ther Adv Vaccines. 2015; Vol. 3(4) 109-120.

Learn more at  
GSK's website:

**GetShinglesReady.co.uk**