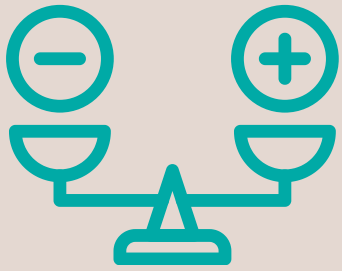


Public consultation on adding shingles vaccine to the adult vaccination programme

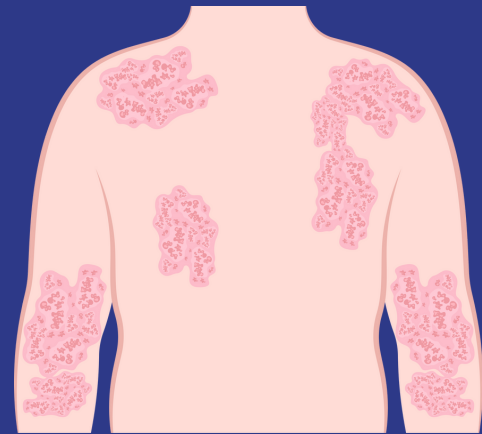


What is HIQA doing?

We are seeking feedback on our draft health technology assessment on whether adding shingles vaccine to the adult vaccination programme would be feasible, effective, and a good use of resources for the HSE.

What is shingles?

- Shingles is a viral infection caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox.
- You can only get shingles if you already had chickenpox.
- One in three people who have had chickenpox will get shingles in their lifetime.
- You cannot give shingles to another person, but contact with shingles can cause chickenpox in someone who never had it.
- Shingles causes a painful, blister-like rash. While this normally clears up within a month, some people may continue to experience pain for months, or even years.
- Older people and people with a medical condition or taking a medicine that can weaken their immune system have a higher risk of getting shingles.



Shingles vaccination

Shingles vaccines are available in Ireland, but the HSE does not provide free vaccination – people must pay to be vaccinated. The vaccines are designed to prevent shingles and its complications in adults.



Draft findings



- The shingles vaccine is effective for the general population aged 50 years and older and for immunocompromised adults aged 18 years and older.
- The benefit of the vaccine decreases over time.
- The vaccine is safe. Reactions to the vaccine are mild and usually resolve within one to two days. Serious harm is rare.
- At the current vaccine price, adding shingles vaccination to the routine immunisation schedule for the general population aged 50 years and older would not be good use of resources for the HSE.

What next?

Input received will inform our final report, which will be provided as advice to the Minister for Health to inform a decision on whether the shingles vaccine should be added to the adult immunisation programme.

You can provide feedback by completing an online survey or downloading the feedback form found at hiqa.ie.



The consultation is open until 5pm, Tuesday 30 April.