

Guide to getting the **ZOSTAVAX** vaccine

Who is ZOSTAVAX for?

ZOSTAVAX can be administered to adults aged 50 years and over.

Who is ZOSTAVAX free for?

From the 1st April 2018 ZOSTAVAX is free for people aged 65 years, and for people aged 66 - 80 years inclusive, until March 2020. If you are aged 64 years or under a charge will apply. Please check the cost at your medical practice or vaccinating pharmacy.

Where do I get ZOSTAVAX?

If you are eligible for free ZOSTAVAX you can be vaccinated at your usual medical practice. If you are aged less than 65 years or over 80 years, and choose to pay for ZOSTAVAX, you can be vaccinated at your usual medical practice or vaccinating pharmacy.

Can I get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as my flu shot?

Yes, ZOSTAVAX can be given with flu vaccine. Ask your doctor or nurse if you can have both vaccines at the same time.

How is ZOSTAVAX given?

ZOSTAVAX is given as a single dose injection in the arm.

Are there any side effects associated with ZOSTAVAX?

ZOSTAVAX is generally well-tolerated. The most common side effects reported are redness, pain and swelling, and itching at the injection site. Other side effects also reported include headache or pain in the arm or leg.

Who should not have ZOSTAVAX?

You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you:

- are allergic to any of its ingredients. This includes allergies to gelatin or neomycin
- have a weakened immune system
- have active TB (tuberculosis) that is not being treated
- are pregnant

If you're unsure please discuss with your doctor, nurse or vaccinating pharmacist.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE USING ZOSTAVAX

(zoster virus vaccine, live) 19,400 PFUs, 0.65 mL vial for injection:

- ZOSTAVAX is used in adults 50 years of age and over to help prevent Shingles and associated pain.
- ZOSTAVAX should not be used in people who have a weakened immune system as a result of disease, medicine or other treatment.
- Common side effects are: headache, localised injection site reactions and pain in the arm or leg.
- ZOSTAVAX is a prescription medicine, free from the 1st April 2018 for people aged 65 years and for people aged 66 - 80 years inclusive, until March 2020. If you are aged 64 years or under a charge will apply.
- Ask your doctor or nurse if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.
- The protective effect of vaccines can vary from person to person.
- ZOSTAVAX has benefits and risks.
- If you have side effects see your doctor, pharmacist or health professional.
- For additional product information consult the consumer medicines information available on request from 0800 500 673, or refer to the Medsafe website www.medsafe.govt.nz

www.shingles.co.nz

MSD recommends people always seek the medical advice of their healthcare professional. Based on Data Sheet prepared 7th August 2017. Copyright © 2018 Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2018 Merck Sharp & Dohme (New Zealand) Limited. Level 3, 123 Carlton Gore Road, Newmarket, Auckland. All rights reserved. VACC-1112213-0038 TAPS CH4176 March 2018 essence MSD8550



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Zoster Vaccine Live (Oka/Merck)