



20th November 2012

Zostavax® for the prevention of the shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia in adults >50 years of age.

The New Therapies Subgroup discussed the above drug at a meeting on the 20th November 2012. The recommendation of this subgroup is as follows:*

The New Therapies Subgroup of the GMMMG considered the use of Zostavax® for the prevention of the shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia in adults 50 years of age and older.

The group does not recommend the prescribing of Zostavax® in primary care outside of a national vaccination programme.

The group proposed that Zostavax® may be considered for at risk patients in secondary care prior to starting chemotherapy or immunosuppressant therapies. Not recommended for primary care prescribing in the above patient group.

Please note that Zostavax is contraindicated in those taking chemotherapy or in immunocompromised patients.

The group noted that the national programme is for 70-79 year olds and is dependant on obtaining sufficient supplies and in securing a cost effective price (proposed to be £55; currently priced £99.96) In addition evidence evaluated by the JCVI suggests that a programme to vaccinate people aged below 65 years is unlikely to be cost effective (at an assumed price of £55 per dose)

According to set criteria Zostavax® was deemed to be a low priority for funding.

Review Date: November 2014

* Unless superseded by NICE guidance or substantial and significant new evidence becomes available.

▼ Newly marketed drugs and vaccines are intensively monitored for a minimum of two years, in order to confirm the risk / benefit profile of the product. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report all suspected adverse drug reactions regardless of the severity of the reaction.