



AN RIALTÓIR CÓGAISÍOCHTA
THE PHARMACY REGULATOR

Programme Specification for the Administration of Herpes Zoster Vaccination Training Course

Version 1.0

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Part One

Generic Interim Accreditation Standards

[The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland](#)¹ apply to educational programmes for the Herpes Zoster Vaccination Training Course. These generic standards should be referred to when accrediting the associated education and training programme(s).

Part Two

Indicative Desired Programme Content and Deliverables

The clinical aspects addressed in this specification are intended to refresh and build on the existing knowledge-base and expertise of pharmacists. Specifically the aim of the training is to enable pharmacists to, competently and safely:

- Respond to, and prepare for, a request for Herpes Zoster vaccination in the pharmacy setting
- Perform relevant assessment of patients in order to administer the correct medicine
- Administer Herpes Zoster vaccine in adults

It is recommended that the learning objectives be achieved through an on-line learning format. Pharmacists must meet the relevant training requirements as specified by the PSI Council.

The following indicative learning objectives are a general guide for training providers to an appropriate scope of the curriculum content for this programme.

The Learning Objectives have been broadly divided into the following 2 key areas:

Key Area 1: rinciples of Varicella-zoster infection, zoster disease, and zoster vaccination

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Discuss the aetiology and transmission of Varicella Zoster infection
- Explain the signs and symptoms of Herpes Zoster infection, and resultant complications including postherpetic neuralgia
- Identify high risk groups (to include a weakened immune system) and those that should receive vaccination
- Describe the epidemiology and disease burden of Herpes Zoster infection
- Describe Herpes Zoster vaccination including its predicted impact and programme objectives according to national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Explain the mechanism of action, routes of administration, dose (including the schedule) and contraindications of the vaccine

¹ Revised version approved by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 26 June 2012.

- Outline the precautions - in particular relating to retransmission
- Detail the potential side effects of the vaccine
- Outline the procedure to assess patients for suitable Herpes Zoster vaccine

Key Area 2: Administration of Herpes Zoster Vaccine

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

Pre-vaccination

- Outline the procedure for vaccine selection and checking
- Explain the storage, preparation and handling of Herpes Zoster vaccines including its timely use following reconstitution to avoid reduction of potency
- Identify the key principles in the provision of patient education on Herpes Zoster vaccination
- State the methods employed to ascertain critical patient information, including required communication with other healthcare professionals (where necessary)
- Assess the patient for suitability (inclusion/exclusion criteria, postponement and administering at the same time as other vaccinations)
- Outline the appropriate schedule for Herpes Zoster vaccination and the relevant intervals that need apply between the administration of this and other live vaccines

Administration

- Explain how the appropriate dose and product of Herpes Zoster vaccine is selected
- Describe the correct administration of the vaccine to the patient in accordance with the provisions of SI 449/2015 and the relevant SmPC

Post-vaccination

- Outline the relevant procedures for post- vaccination monitoring of the patient to include appropriate observation times
- Describe the system in place to record/document the administration of Herpes Zoster vaccine
- Specify the requirement to notify other health providers (including the patient's usual prescriber) and agencies with appropriate details as required (including information on adverse drug reactions)
- Summarise the protocols for managing adverse reactions
- Briefly explain the steps to be explained to the patient following Herpes Zoster vaccination, including; vaccine effectiveness, risk of virus transmission, expected side effects and adverse reactions and how to manage these.
- Reflect on the delivery of the service and obtain feedback to ensure continuous quality improvement

References

- Health Service Executive <http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/OtherVaccines/> ;
<http://www.hse.ie/portal/eng/health/az/S/Herpes Zoster/>
- Health Protection Surveillance Centre website <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Herpes ZosterDisease/>
- Royal College of Physicians of Ireland [Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland, 2013](#) and subsequent updates (Chapter 23Varicella-Zoster)
<http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/immunisationguidelines.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases "The Pink Book-12th edition. April 2011 available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>
- Department of Health UK (now updated by Public Health England). Immunisation against infectious diseases "The Green Book"2006 (Chapter 28a Herpes Zoster (herpes zoster)) and subsequent updates available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- Health Protection Scotland Immunisation and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Guidelines <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/immvax/guidelines.aspx>
- Immunisation Scotland website <http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/index.aspx>
- Summary of Product Characteristics <http://www.medicines.ie/medicine/15965/SPC/ZOSTAVAX/>
- Eid DDet al. The Impact of Pharmacist Interventions on Herpes Zoster Vaccination Rates. [Consult Pharm.](#) 2015;30(8):459-62. doi: 10.4140/TCP.n.2015.459. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26260642>
- New Zealand Ministry of Health Immunisation Handbook 2014 at <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014>

(All websites accessed 10.1.16)

Acknowledgements

The following regulators and professional bodies have been consulted:

- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Alberta College of Pharmacists
- Alberta Pharmacists' Association
- Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
- Pharmacy Council of New Zealand
- American Pharmacists' Association
- College of Pharmacists of British Columbia
- Canadian Council for Continuing Education in Pharmacy
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- Australian Pharmacy Council
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
- National Association of Pharmacy Boards
- National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities
- Public Health England