

## **Zostavax (Shingles Vaccine)**



FDA approved for individuals 50 years of age and older

Administered by a pharmacist:

Prescription needed for patients under 60 years old (50-59 yrs)

No prescription necessary for patients 60 and older

Administered by nurse at Take Care:

No prescription necessary for any age group (50+)

### **Contraindications/Precautions**

The following patients should not receive the immunization:

- Patients on the following medications which decrease the immune system:
  - > 20mg/day of prednisone or equivalent lasting 2 or more weeks
  - > 0.4mg/kg/week of methotrexate
  - > 3.0 mg/kg/day of azathioprine
  - >1.5 mg/kg/day of 6-mercaptopurine
- Allergy to gelatin, neomycin, MSG or any other component of the vaccine
- Patients with leukemia, lymphomas, AIDS/HIV or any other immune system disorder
- Patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT)
- Patients receiving recombinant human immune mediators, immune modulators, (i.e. Humira, Remicade, Embrel), or any other medications affecting the immune system
- Pregnant patients

### **Waiting Periods**

- Patients whose leukemia/lymphoma is in remission and who have not received chemotherapy or radiation for at least 3 months can be vaccinated.
- Patients on high dose corticosteroid therapy must wait one month after discontinuation of therapy (>20mg/day of prednisone or equivalent – please note this dose not include topical, inhaled or steroid shots)
- HSCT patients should wait 24 months after transplantation
- Patients receiving recombinant human immune mediators and immune modulators (i.e. Enbrel, Remicade, Humira, etc.) should wait at least one month after discontinuation of treatment
- Patients taking antiviral drugs (i.e. acyclovir, valacyclovir) should wait at least 24 hours after last dose and these medications should NOT be taken for at least 14 days after vaccination
- Patients with moderate to severe illness should wait until the condition has improved
- Patients with active tuberculosis
- Patients with an active case of shingles – must wait until rash resolves
- Zostavax and the pneumonia vaccine should be separated by minimum of 4 weeks
- TB skin test:
  - Zostavax followed by TB skin test wait 28 days in between
  - TB skin test followed by Zostavax – wait 48 hours after TB test (until TB test is read)

**Covered at a zero co-pay with Maricopa County medical insurance (Cigna).**

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For questions in regards to any of the above please call your Maricopa County on-site Walgreens 602-283-9925.