

New Shingles Vaccine Recommendations Become Official Policy

The new shingles vaccine policy statement, "[Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccines](#)," was published Friday, January 26 in *The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* and provides background data, information, and findings related to ACIP's recommendations for the use of Shingrix (recombinant zoster vaccine) (RZV) and Zostavax (zoster vaccine live) (ZVL).

On October 20, 2017, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) licensed Shingrix for adults 50 years and older to prevent shingles. The same month, ACIP made the following three recommendations:

- 1) RZV is recommended for the prevention of herpes zoster and related complications for immunocompetent adults aged ≥ 50 years.
- 2) RZV is recommended for the prevention of herpes zoster and related complications for immunocompetent adults who previously received ZVL.
- 3) RZV is preferred over ZVL for the prevention of herpes zoster and related complications.

Resources for healthcare professionals and patients

CDC has updated its shingles vaccination websites to reflect the new recommendations:

- [Shingles vaccination main page](#)
- [What everyone should know about Shingrix](#)
- [Information about Shingrix for Healthcare Professionals](#)

How you can help

- Consider forwarding this email to your distribution lists. You can be the one to carry this information forward to physicians and pharmacists who need it the most.
- Make sure your patients get two doses of Shingrix separated by 2 to 6 months. This guidance even applies to those who already had shingles or got Zostavax.