



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
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John Paul O'Shea, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th June 2025

PQ: 33124/25

To ask the Minister for Health whether the vaccine for shingles will be made available to medical card holders or under the drugs payment scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -John Paul O'Shea

Dear Deputy O'Shea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 33124/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service does not supply vaccines or provide reimbursement support for vaccines through community pharmacies under the Statutory Drug Schemes.

When the public health imperative to support particular vaccines to defined cohorts becomes national policy, vaccines are directly procured by the HSE and supplied through the national vaccine distribution arrangements to GPs and pharmacies for eligible cohorts.

Therefore, the Shingles vaccine is not reimbursed under Community Drug Schemes including both the General Medical Services and Drugs Payment Scheme.

The HSE PCRS is aware that the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) published the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of the addition of herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination to the adult vaccination programme on 19th July 2024. The published document can be found at <https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2024-07/HZ-vaccination-HTA.pdf>.

The HTA found that adding the shingles vaccine to the schedule is not cost effective and is associated with a substantial budget impact. From recent Parliamentary Questions published online, the Department of

Health has stated that it considered its findings and determined that the introduction of the vaccine can be reconsidered when cost effectiveness is more favourable.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie