



Stiúrthóir um Chosaint Sláinte Náisiúnta
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta um Chosaint Sláinte
FSS Lárionad Faire um Chosaint Sláinte
25 - 27 Sráid Ghairdinéir,
Baile Átha Cliath,
D01A4A3,

Director National Health Protection
National Health Protection Office

HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre
25-27 Middle Gardiner Street,
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Ireland

Deputy Emer Currie TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin

By email: emer.currie@oireachtas.ie

Date: 13/05/2025

Re: 21960/25 & 24133/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she intends on mandating the HSE health protection surveillance centre to collect data on shingles or post-herpetic neuralgia, in order to provide greater data for public health decisions, particularly related to the National Immunisation Programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Currie,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The list of diseases (and their respective causative pathogens) that are notifiable is contained in the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 and subsequent amendments. The most recent amendment to the Regulations is the [Infectious Diseases \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. No. 528 of 2024\)](#). In Ireland, Herpes Zoster (shingles) is not categorised as a notifiable disease. Hospitalised cases of varicella (chickenpox) are listed as notifiable.

At the request of the Department of Health, HIQA completed a ‘Health technology assessment of the addition of herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination to the adult vaccination programme’ in 2024. The report stated that “the aim of the HTA was to establish the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and budget impact of the addition of herpes zoster (shingles) vaccination to the adult immunisation programme in Ireland.” Based on the findings of this HTA, HIQA provided advice to the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive. The report states “At the submitted price, the current evidence suggests that HZ vaccination does not represent an efficient use of healthcare resources in Ireland.” “While the addition of the HZ vaccine to the adult immunisation programme would improve equity of access to this vaccine, the use of resources in this way may create inequity in other areas of the healthcare system. In the context of a finite healthcare budget, it could require reallocation of resources potentially impacting the existing healthcare system by diverting resources from other effective treatments or from the overall healthcare fund. Funding interventions, which have been found to be not cost effective, could create issues of justice and equity with respect to a fair

distribution of benefits and burdens.” The full HIQA report is found at:
<https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2024-07/HZ-vaccination-HTA.pdf>

While shingles is not a notifiable infectious disease, the Irish sentinel GP network does collect data on clinical consultations of shingles; these data are routinely used to inform the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and HIQA HTAs.

Currently, the HPSC does not plan to collect further data on shingles or post-herpetic neuralgia.

Please contact us if you require further information or clarification.

Kind regards,

Dr Éamonn O'Moore,
Director of Health Protection,
HSE Public Health: National Health Protection Office.