

Shingles Vaccine

Shingles is a painful skin rash, often with blisters. It is also called Herpes Zoster, or just Zoster.

A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts from 2 to 4 weeks. Its main symptom is pain, which can be quite severe. Other symptoms of shingles can include fever, headache, chills and upset stomach. Very rarely, a shingles infection can lead to pneumonia, hearing problems, blindness, brain inflammation, or death.

For about 1 person in 5, severe pain can continue even long after the rash clears up. This is called post-herpetic neuralgia.

Shingles is caused by the Varicella Zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox. Only someone who has had chickenpox—or, rarely, has gotten chickenpox vaccine—can get shingles. The virus stays in your body, and can cause shingles many years later.

You can't catch shingles from another person with shingles. However, a person who has never had chickenpox or chicken pox vaccine could get chickenpox from someone with shingles. This however, is not very common.

Shingles is far more common in people 50 years of age and older than in younger people. It is also more common in people whose immune systems are weakened because of a disease such as cancer, or drugs such as steroids or chemotherapy.

At least 1 million people a year in the United States get shingles.

The vaccine for shingles was licensed in 2006. In clinical trials, the vaccine reduced the risk of shingles by 50%. It can also reduce pain in people who still get shingles after being vaccinated. A single dose of shingles vaccine is recommended for adults 60 years of age and older.

Hazle Drugs Immunization Pharmacists administer the Shingles vaccine daily. No appointment is necessary and no prescription is needed. The Shingles vaccine is covered on Medicare Part D and is also covered on most insurance plans. Please contact Hazle Drugs Immunization Pharmacists; Bill Spear, R.Ph, CCN and Wendy Murphy, Pharm D for more information.

Don't wait! Get vaccinated at Hazle Drugs today. We also offer the **Flu Vaccine** and **Pneumonia Vaccine**.

In addition to the Shingles Vaccine, Hazle Drugs is also offering FLU SHOTS daily from 9:00am to 4:00 pm. No appointment is necessary. Wendy Murphy, Pharm D and Bill Spear, R.Ph, CCN are immunization specialists who are certified to administer vaccines. The Flu shot is FREE to Medicare patients, select Blue Cross of NEPA Health Plans and select Geisinger Health Plans.

**Flu shots are available while supplies last!
We also administer the Pneumonia Vaccine.**

Bill Spear, R.Ph., CCN is a Compounding Pharmacist and Certified Clinical Nutritionist. He is available for personal Nutritional Consultations at Hazle Drugs 1 E. Broad St. Hazleton, Pa. 18201, (570)-454-2476 Call for more information or to schedule your Nutritional Consultation today!