

Advisory document to support the delivery of the Zostavax[®] Patient Group Direction (PGD) in Accordance with the Immunisation Programme in Wales

We gratefully acknowledge UKHSA for their permission to use their Zostavax[®] vaccine PGD as a reference resource across NHS Wales, to be used alongside this associated advisory document.

Individual Summaries of Product Characteristics (SmPCs) may differ in their licensed indications from official vaccination policy as specified in the Green Book and Welsh Policy.

On these occasions, Green Book recommendations should take precedence and provides the rationale for any off-label use. Practitioners using authorised PGDs should also be familiar with the relevant chapters of the Green Book, SmPCs and Welsh Policy, and be constantly alert to any subsequent recommendations from Public Health Wales and/or Welsh Government and other sources of medical information.

Prepared by: the Welsh Medicines Advice Service (WMAS)

Any queries regarding the content of this advisory document should be addressed to: welshmedicines.information@wales.nhs.uk

The relevant amendments, governance and sign off for any PGD is the responsibility of the authorising organisation in Wales.

Operational from: 1st September 2023

Expiry date: 31st October 2024

Version number: 1.1

Change history:

Version number	Change details	Date
1.0	Original advisory document developed.	01 September 2023
1.1	Expiry date extended in line with UKHSA Zostavax PGD. References updated.	12 December 2023

Additional clinical conditions or situations to which this advisory document applies

Zostavax[®] vaccine PGD in accordance with the National Immunisation Programme

UKHSA publications gateway number: GOV-15000

Section 4. Clinical condition or situation to which this PGD applies

Criteria for exclusion

Breastfeeding

It is unknown whether the varicella zoster virus (VZV) is secreted in human milk and so the risk to infants cannot be excluded. As a result, Zostavax[®] should not be administered to breastfeeding individuals.

Section 5. Description of treatment

Off-label use

The Zostavax[®] [SmPC](#) advises to give the vaccine subcutaneously to individuals with severe thrombocytopenia or any coagulation disorder, because these individuals may bleed following intramuscular injections.

The administration directions advised in the [Green Book](#) and subsequently the [UKHSA Zostavax[®] vaccine PGD](#) differ to that outlined above; for individuals with a bleeding disorder, Zostavax[®] should be given by deep subcutaneous injection to reduce the risk of bleeding.

Route and method of administration

See “off-label “ section above

Special considerations and additional information

Coadministration of Zostavax[®] and COVID-19 vaccines

The [Green book chapter 14a COVID-19 \(April 2023\)](#) provides the following information on co-administration. This chapter has been updated more recently than the previous [Green book chapter 28a: Shingles \(herpes zoster\) \(August 2021\)](#) which includes the preference for a 7 day interval as per the [UKHSA Zostavax[®] PGD](#):

- Based on the evidence, and, as COVID-19 vaccines are considered inactivated (including the non-replicating adenovirus vaccine), where individuals in an eligible cohort present having recently received one or more inactivated or another live vaccine, COVID-19 vaccination should still be given. The same applies for other live and inactivated vaccines where COVID-19 vaccination has been received first or where a patient presents requiring two or more vaccines. It is generally better for vaccination to proceed to avoid any further delay in protection and to avoid the risk of the patient not returning for a later appointment. This includes but is not limited to vaccines commonly administered around the same time or in the same settings (including pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine and shingles vaccine in those aged over 65 years, pertussis-containing vaccines and influenza vaccines in pregnancy, and LAIV, HPV, MenACWY and Td-IPV vaccines in school age children).

References

- Advisory Document: Handling & Storage of Vaccines, 7th revision. September 2017. Available from: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/advisory-document-on-ordering-storage-and-handling-of-vaccines-7th-revision-pdf/> [accessed 12 December 2023]
- NHS Wales. Welsh Health Technical Memorandum 07-01 – Safe Management of Healthcare Waste. 2013. Available from: <https://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/specialist-estates-services/specialist-estates-services-documents/whtms-library/whtm-07-01-safe-management-of-healthcare-waste-pdf/> [accessed 12 December 2023]
- Public Health Wales. Leaflets and accessible vaccination information. Available from: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/vaccination-accessible-information/> [accessed 12 December 2023]
- UKHSA. Notification of extension of validity of Zostavax PGD. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-vaccine-zostavax-patient-group-direction-pgd-template> [accessed 11 December 2023]
- Welsh Government. Records management code of practice for health and social care 2022. Published 02 March 2022. Available from <https://www.gov.wales/managing-health-and-social-care-records-code-practice-2022> [accessed 12 December 2023]