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DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON SHINGLES AND PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES AND OTHER UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL ADULT IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE

This circular informs all licensed healthcare providers and registered medical practitioners of the detailed recommendations for shingles and pneumococcal vaccines, and updates to the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) in the National Adult Immunisation Schedule (NAIS). These recommendations are based on the advice of the Expert Committee on Immunisation (ECI). The inclusion of shingles vaccine and updates to pneumococcal vaccines in the NAIS were earlier communicated in MOH Circular Nos. 03/2025 and 04/2025 (to licensed healthcare providers, and registered medical practitioners, respectively) dated 10 February 2025.

Detailed recommendations on shingles vaccine in the NAIS

2. As announced in February 2025, shingles vaccination (using recombinant herpes zoster vaccine (RHZV), marketed by GSK as Shingrix) will be included in the NAIS for persons aged 18 years or older who are at increased risk of developing shingles and associated complications. RHZV will be recommended to the following groups:

- a) All persons aged 60 years or older; and
- b) Persons aged 18 years or older with immunocompromising conditions.

3. Salient points of the recommendations on RHZV in the NAIS are summarised below. Details of the recommendations are available in **Annex A** under “Recommended Vaccine Types, Doses and Groups in the NAIS – RHZV”.

- a) For persons aged 60 years or older, two doses are recommended at an interval of 2-6 months.
- b) For persons aged 18 years or older with immunocompromising conditions, the interval between doses can be shorter at 1-2 months, if earlier protection is desired.
- c) For persons who have previously received live, attenuated herpes zoster vaccine (HZVL, previously marketed by MSD as Zostavax), an interval of ≥ 5

years is recommended between HZVL and RHZV; a shorter interval of ≥ 12 months can be considered for adults aged 70 years or older.

- d) Verification of varicella immunity prior to receiving RHZV is not recommended regardless of age or medical condition.
- e) For persons 18 years or older with immunocompromising conditions, detailed guidance is in **Annex B**.
- f) Please verify your patient's vaccination status, including checking with them directly on their vaccination history and non-digital records, before advising them on the recommended vaccine and dose regimen.

Detailed recommendations on pneumococcal vaccines in the NAIS

4. Similarly, as communicated via MOH circulars in February 2025, a 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20, marketed by Pfizer as Prevenar 20) will be included in the NAIS. PCV20 will be recommended for persons described as follows:

- a) All persons aged 65 years or older;
- b) Persons aged 18 years or older with any of the following conditions:
 - Chronic medical conditions;
 - Cochlear implants or cerebrospinal fluid leaks;
 - Immunocompromising conditions;
 - Chronic kidney disease (CKD) (coded as “renal insufficiency” in IT systems (e.g. Smart CMS, other CMS, MHCP)).

5. Based on recommendations of the Drug Advisory Committee (DAC), PCV13 and PPSV23 will continue to be listed on the Subsidised Vaccine List (SVL) alongside PCV20 and used in the NAIS as an alternative to PCV20, as summarised below:

- a) Persons in the recommended groups who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccine can either receive:
 - PCV20; or
 - PCV13 and/or PPSV23 as per prevailing recommendations.
- b) Persons who have received PCV13 and/or PPSV23 but have not completed the recommended vaccination series can either:
 - receive PCV20 to complete the vaccination series; **or**
 - complete the vaccination series as per prevailing recommendations using PCV13 and/or PPSV23.

6. Details of the recommendations for pneumococcal vaccination and those specific to PCV20, PCV13 and PPSV23 are available in **Annex A** under “Recommended Vaccine Types, Doses and Groups in the NAIS – Pneumococcal Vaccines”. Detailed recommendations for guidance on pneumococcal vaccination based on scenarios by age, medical conditions or prior vaccine(s) are available in **Annex C**. Other salient points on the changes in the updated recommendations are summarised below:

- a) For unvaccinated persons in the recommended groups aged 18-64 years with chronic medical conditions, they can either receive PCV20 or PPSV23. In the previous recommendations, persons with chronic medical conditions were only recommended to receive PPSV23.
- b) Congenital or acquired asplenia (previously a separate category listed as anatomic or functional asplenia) are now incorporated under the category of immunocompromising conditions.

- c) CKD (previously listed under chronic medical conditions) is now listed as a separate category (coded as “renal insufficiency” in IT systems (e.g. Smart CMS, other CMS, MHCP)).
- d) For persons aged 18-64 years with CKD, they can either receive PCV20 or PCV13 and PPSV23. In the previous recommendations, persons with CKD were only recommended to receive PPSV23.
- e) Detailed examples of medical conditions in the recommended groups and exclusions are listed, where applicable.
- f) Similarly, please verify your patient’s vaccination status, including checking with them directly on their vaccination history and non-digital records, before advising them on the recommended vaccine and dose regimen.

Changes to the recommended HPV vaccines in the NAIS

7. The 4-valent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4 previously marketed by MSD as Gardasil) is no longer available for use in Singapore and it has been removed from the NAIS. The 2-valent HPV vaccine (HPV2, marketed by GSK as Cervarix) continues to be available and recommended under the NAIS. The recommendations for HPV2 under “Recommended Vaccine Types, Doses and Groups” in **Annex A** have been updated to include the minimum intervals between doses.

Vaccination subsidy eligibility and use of MediSave

8. With the inclusion of RHZV and PCV20 in the NAIS and SVL, subsidies under the Vaccination and Childhood Developmental Screening Subsidy Scheme (VCDSS) will apply to those in the recommended groups **from 1 September 2025**. MediSave use for RHZV and PCV20 will also be extended to adults in the recommended groups under the NAIS **from mid-2026**. Please refer to MOH FCM No. 2/2025 or MOH FCM No. 3/2025 for more details.

Submission of vaccination records to national systems

9. Today, all vaccination records for vaccines in the NAIS and the National Childhood Immunisation Schedule (NCIS) must be submitted to the National Immunisation Registry (NIR) or contributed to the National Electronic Health Records (NEHR).

10. With the planned inclusion of RHZV and PCV20 into the NAIS, healthcare providers should **from 1 September 2025**, submit vaccination records for RHZV and PCV20 to the national systems. For providers using NEHR-contributing electronic medical records (EMRs) or clinic management systems (CMSes), medical practitioners and vaccinators are requested to ensure that RHZV and PCV20 records are being contributed to NEHR (which will be forwarded to NIR).

11. For providers using CMSes that have yet to be enhanced to submit or contribute RHZV and PCV20 records to NIR or NEHR, please use the NIR Doctor’s Portal to submit these records to NIR in the meantime. Please refer to **Table 1** for the notification codes, and ensure that the correct codes are selected during notification to uphold data integrity and to facilitate processing of subsidy claims. For clarifications

on notification to NIR, please contact NIR@cda.gov.sg. For matters related to your CMS, please contact your respective CMS provider.

12. For more information on the submission of vaccination records to national systems, please refer to MOH Circular No. 52/2023 dated 3 August 2023 titled “[For Compliance] Entry of Vaccination Records into National Immunisation Registry (NIR) and National Electronic Health Records (NEHR)”.

Table 1: NIR codes for notification of RHZV and PCV20 to NIR Doctor’s Portal

Vaccine	Notification code (under “Immunisation Type”)
Recombinant herpes zoster vaccine (RHZV)	A-HZVRC
20-valent Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20)	A-PCV20*

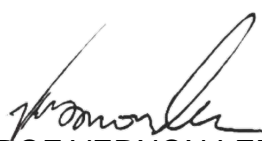
** Please note that for existing (or previously available) PCVs, i.e. PCV7, PCV10 and PCV13 – they will continue to use their current NIR codes, i.e. PCV7 and PCV10 will be tagged as “PNC” (children only), and PCV13 will be tagged as “PNC” and “A-PNC”. The existing PPSV23 vaccine will also continue to be tagged as “PPSV” or “A-PPSV”.*

For clarification

13. The tables on the NAIS with the updates in this circular incorporated are available in **Annex A**. Please disseminate this circular to the relevant staff for their attention. For clarification on this circular, please email CDA_records_management@cda.gov.sg, or moh_info@moh.gov.sg.



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Annexes

Annex A	Updated National Adult Immunisation Schedule (NAIS)
Annex B	NAIS: Detailed recommendations on shingles vaccination (RHZV)
Annex C	NAIS: Detailed recommendations on pneumococcal vaccination (PCV20, PCV13, PPSV23)

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