



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

P&T Committee Meeting
August 9th 2012

Effective Date:
08/09/12

Zostavax®
Utilization Management Proposal

Medication	Description	Background/ Recommendation
Zoster Vaccine Live suspension for subcutaneous injection (Zostavax®) Merck & Co. Part D Chapter: Immunology and Hematology	Zostavax® is a live attenuated virus vaccine for prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in individuals 50 years of age and older FDA approved May 25, 2006. Herpes zoster (shingles) is caused by infection with the varicella zoster virus (VZV). When the illness resolves, the virus remains in the dorsal root ganglia. Reactivation of the virus results in a cutaneous rash (herpes zoster). Zoster vaccine was shown to boost varicella-zoster virus-specific immunity. This is thought to be the mechanism of action against zoster and its complications. It is estimated that 98% of adults in the United States are at risk for herpes zoster. The lifetime risk of developing herpes zoster is about 30% and each year there are an estimated one million cases in the U.S. Zostavax® appears to be most effective for those age 60–69 years, and effectiveness declines with increasing age. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 60 years with 1 dose of zoster vaccine. <u>Indication:</u> For prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in persons 50 years and older. Not indicated for the treatment of zoster or postherpetic neuralgia, or for the prevention of primary varicella infection (chickenpox). Do not use zoster vaccine in children and adolescents. <u>Dosing:</u> 0.65 mL per subcutaneous dose. <u>How Supplied:</u> Subcutaneous Powder for Solution: 19400 PFU	Zostavax was originally reviewed at the July 2006 P&T. Approved as Tier 4 (Non-Self Administered Injectable) for Medicare Part D Excluded under commercial RX benefit. Quantity Limit: 1 dose per lifetime

Reference list:

- 1) Drugs@FDA [page on the internet]. Approval history Zostavax. Accessed 7/20/2012.
- 2) Zostavax [package insert] Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; June 2011.
- 3) © 2012 Wolters Kluwer Health – Facts & Comparisons
- 4) Prevention of Herpes Zoster: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) (6 June 2008/57(05);1-30)
- 5) Vaccines & Immunizations [page on internet] www.cdc.gov/vaccines. Accessed 7/20/12.