

# MedStar Health, Inc.

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.031.MH  
Last Review Date: 02/04/2016  
Effective Date: 03/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 02/01/2017

### MP.031.MH – Zostavax Vaccine

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar MA – DSNP – CSNP
  
- ✓ **Variation for Medicare Advantage:** Zostavax® vaccine is covered only if the HMO or PPO benefit plan includes PART D prescription drug coverage, and is administered in the pharmacy setting. If the Medicare Advantage benefit plan does **not** include prescription benefits, this vaccine is **not** a covered benefit.

MedStar Health considers the Zostavax Vaccine medically necessary for the following indications:

This vaccine is covered **for adults 50 years of age or older.**

#### Limitations

The following are contraindications for this vaccine:

1. HIV+ members with a CD4+ T lymphocyte count of <200 cells/μL
2. Treatment with drugs that affect the immune system, such as steroids
3. Members who have a weakened immune system because of:
  - a. Cancer treatment such as radiation or chemotherapy
  - b. Cancer affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic system, such as leukemia or lymphoma
4. Pregnancy or nursing mothers (Pregnancy should be avoided for three months post vaccination)
5. Active tuberculosis
6. History of anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reaction to gelatin, neomycin or any other component of the vaccine
7. The vaccine should not be used in children
8. The vaccine should not be used for treatment of Zoster or PHN

#### Background

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster or varicella zoster, is caused by reactivation of the dormant varicella-zoster virus (VZV). VZV is the same virus that causes chickenpox and stays in the body for life. Anyone who has been infected by chickenpox could develop shingles, though not all will. With increasing age and a weakened immunity to VZV, the virus can reactivate causing painful blisters typically on one side of the body. Shingles is most common in people 50 years of age and older and risk of complications

## MP.031.MH – Zostavax Vaccine

Policy Number: MP.031.MH  
Last Review Date: 02/04/2016  
Effective Date: 03/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 02/01/2017

increases with age. Common symptoms associated with shingles includes itching and painful rashes, typically presented as clusters of blisters in a single area of the body. Shingles can lead to complications such as post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), a persistent nerve pain occurring after the rash has healed.

Currently ZOSTAVAX®, or herpes zoster vaccine, is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in individuals aged 50 years and over. The vaccine was originally approved by the FDA in 2006 for people 60 years of age and older. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the same recommendation for vaccine use in people 60 years of age and older in 2008 and has not since changed the guidelines on age.

ZOSTAVAX is a lyophilized preparation of the live attenuated varicella-zoster virus (VZV). The risk of developing zoster in an individual is related to a decline in the VZV specific immunity. ZOSTAVAX® was shown to boost VZV specific immunity, and studies have indicated that the vaccine reduced the occurrence of shingles by approximately 51%, and reduced pain and discomfort by approximately 61% in those members between 60-80 years of age. The few studies in those over 80 years of age did not show such favorable outcomes.

### Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
90736	Zoster vaccine live for subcutaneous use.

### References

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 years and Older, United States – 2013. MMWR. 2013 Feb; 62(01):9-19. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6201a3.htm>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Prevention of Herpes Zoster. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR. 2008 June 6; 57(RR-5). <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5705.pdf>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Update on Recommendation for Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccine. MMWR. 2014 Aug; 63(33);729-731. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6333a3.htm>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC: Shingle Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS). Current date: 10/6/2009. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/shingles.html>

## MP.031.MH – Zostavax Vaccine

Policy Number: MP.031.MH

Last Review Date: 02/04/2016

Effective Date: 03/01/2016

Renewal Date: 02/01/2017

5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Matters No. SE0678.: Payment for Part D Vaccines under the Medicare Drug Benefit (Part D). . <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/se0678.pdf>
6. Merck & Co., Inc. ZOSTAVAX® [Zoster Vaccine, Live, (Oka/Merck)]. Product Information, Accessed 10/28/2015. <https://www.merckvaccines.com/Products/Zostavax/Pages/home>
7. Oxman MN, Levin MJ, Johnson GR, et al., A vaccine to prevent herpes zoster and postherpetic neuralgia in older adults. N Engl J Med. 2005 June; 352(22):2271-2284. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa051016>
8. Schmader KE, Levin MJ, Gnann JW, et al. Efficacy, safety, and tolerability of Herpes Zoster vaccine in persons aged 50-59 years. Clin Infect Dis. 2012 Apr; 54(7), 922-928. <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/54/7/922.full.pdf+html>
9. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approval Letter – Zostavax. STN: BL 125123/0. Dated May 25, 2006. <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm132873.htm>
10. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approval Letter – Zostavax. STN: BL 125123/734. Dated March 24, 2011. <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm248608.htm>
11. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA News Release: FDA Licenses New Vaccine to Reduce Older Americans' Risk of Shingles, May 26, 2006. P06-73. <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/2006/ucm108659.htm>
12. Voelker R. FDA expands age range for shingles vaccine. JAMA. 2011 Apr; 305(15): 1526. <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=897078>

### Disclaimer:

MedStar Health medical payment and prior authorization policies do not constitute medical advice and are not intended to govern or otherwise influence the practice of medicine. The policies constitute only the reimbursement and coverage guidelines of MedStar Health and its affiliated managed care entities. Coverage for services varies for individual members in accordance with the terms and conditions of applicable Certificates of Coverage, Summary Plan Descriptions, or contracts with governing regulatory agencies.

MedStar Health reserves the right to review and update the medical payment and prior authorization guidelines in its sole discretion. Notice of such changes, if necessary,

## **MP.031.MH – Zostavax Vaccine**

Policy Number: MP.031.MH

Last Review Date: 02/04/2016

Effective Date: 03/01/2016

Renewal Date: 02/01/2017

shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of provider agreements and any applicable laws or regulations.

These policies are the proprietary information of Evolent Health. Any sale, copying, or dissemination of said policies is prohibited.