

16 September 2026

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
Email: commentsPBAC@health.gov.au

Dear PBAC Secretariat,

Re: Consultation for the November 2026 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) agenda – lowering the age eligibility for Shingrix for adults aged 60+

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for the opportunity to submit a recommendation to reduce the age eligibility for the recombinant zoster vaccine, RZV, sold as Shingrix for adults aged 60+.

The RACGP aligns closely with the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)¹ by endorsing Shingrix for adults aged 50 and over. We recommend including this vaccine on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to ensure it is funded and available for people at the recommended age and at highest risk.

Currently, multiple ATAGI recommended vaccines are not on the NIP. Many Australians do not have easy, affordable, and equitable access to vaccines that can prevent disease. Similarly, inequities exist through non-alignment of jurisdictional vaccination schedules and funding.

The current NIP eligibility criteria for Shingrix courses are only available to non-Indigenous adults aged 65 and older, (or 50+ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and 18+ for certain immunocompromised cohorts) creating a significant out-of-pocket expense for people between 60 – 64. Shingles risk does not discriminate on age or wait for a specific funded birthday, yet the incidence of shingles increases significantly in adults in this age bracket.²

The RACGP supports an expansion to the NIP listing for recombinant zoster vaccine to include non-indigenous adult patients 60 years of age and over, reducing from the current age criteria of 65 and over.

The RACGP thanks PBAC for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, Head of e-Health, Quality Care & Standards on (03) 8699 0544 or at Stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Wright
President

¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/statement-on-the-clinical-use-of-zoster-vaccine-in-older-adults-in-australia>

² <https://www.medicalrepublic.com.au/patients-dont-experience-shingles-risk-in-five-year-increments/128612>