Indications for Use and Schedule

**Routine Schedule:**
- 1 dose given at/after age 60

A single dose of zoster vaccine is recommended for adults aged 60 years and older regardless of whether they report a previous episode of herpes zoster.

**“Live/Live Vaccine Rule”:**
- Zos, Var, MMR and/or LAIV must be given on the same day or separated by 28 days;
- If not, vaccine(s) given 2nd must be repeated in 28 days

ACIP continues to recommend that zoster vaccine and PPSV be administered at the same visit if the person is eligible for both vaccines.

Vaccine Administration
- Administer ZOSTAVAX as a single 0.65-mL dose subcutaneously in the deltoid region of the upper arm.
- 5/8 inch needle; 23-25 gauge (all ages)
- Can be given with other vaccines, at the same visit (Use separate sites; space at least 1 inch apart)

Storage and Handling
- Store in the freezer only
- -58°F to +5°F (-50ºC to -15ºC)
- Keep in the original box
- Protect from light
- Reconstitute using the Merck diluent only
- The diluent should be stored separately at room temperature (68°F to 77°F, 20°C to 25°C), or in the refrigerator (36°F to 46°F, 2°C to 8°C).
- Administer within 30 min of reconstituting

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**
- Do not administer ZOSTAVAX to individuals with a history of anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reaction to gelatin, neomycin or any other component of the vaccine. Neomycin allergy manifested as contact dermatitis is not a contraindication to receiving this vaccine.
- Pregnancy should be avoided for 3 months following administration of ZOSTAVAX.
- Persons with immunosuppression due to leukemia, lymphoma, generalized malignancy, immune deficiency disease or immunosuppressive therapy (i.e. chemotherapy, certain medications)

**PRECAUTIONS**
- Moderate to severe acute illness
- Current treatment with an antiviral drug active against herpesviruses

**FURTHER POINTS**
- Varicella-containing vaccines will be shipped directly from Merck with frozen gel packs that are good for up to 72 hours
- Do not transport varicella-containing vaccines on dry ice (-109°F); a type of portable freezer unit must be used
- ZOSTAVAX is not indicated for the treatment of zoster or postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) or for prevention of primary varicella infection (Chickenpox)
- Recent receipt of a blood product is NOT a precaution
- Zoster Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), is available at [http://www.immunize.org/vis/](http://www.immunize.org/vis/)
- Vaccinees and health care providers are encouraged to report any exposure to ZOSTAVAX during pregnancy by calling 1-800-986-8999.

For additional information, “Prevention of Herpes Zoster” at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr57e0515a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr57e0515a1.htm)