



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

First Nations Health Benefits

Shingles

Shingles – the common name for herpes zoster – is a painful blistering rash caused by a re-activation of the varicella-zoster virus (the same virus that causes chicken pox). The pain of shingles can persist after the rash has healed – for weeks, months, or even longer. Shingles can occur in anyone who has had chickenpox; however, it is more common and more likely to cause complications and long-term effects in older people.

“Shingles can be extremely painful and it is preventable. When it happens, treatment requires immediate medical care and antiviral drugs. Many First Nations clients live in remote areas where it’s difficult to get this quick treatment. We also know that there are cultural safety issues with some of our Elders that impede them from seeking the urgent response this condition requires.”

- Dr. Evan Adams, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Public Health, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)

SHINGRIX® VACCINE COVERAGE

- Coverage is available for eligible Health Benefits clients (<https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/eligibility>) who are 60 years old and older.
- Vaccination against shingles is a preventative measure. It helps to reduce the risk of shingles-related complications and hospitalizations.
- The vaccine is dispensed by a pharmacist and can be injected by a pharmacist, community health nurse (CHN) or physician. It requires two doses to be fully effective.

ACCESSING COVERAGE

Shingrix® is available at your local pharmacy. Pharmacy providers can process the claim through Pacific Blue Cross for clients who meet the eligibility criteria.

Talk to your physician, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, or CHN about the risks and benefits of this vaccine.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call First Nations Health Benefits at 1.855.550.5454 or email healthbenefits@fnha.ca

Exceptional review for clients under 60 years old

Requests for exceptional coverage for clients who do not meet the above criteria are reviewed on a case-by-case basis:

- Provider must complete the [FNHA Shingrix® Exception Request Form](#) and fax: 1-888-299-9222 for review.
- Decision will be sent to submitting provider and the client's pharmacy.

If you have any questions about the exceptional review, please contact Health Benefits at
1.855.550.5454

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION OUTSIDE OF A PHARMACY

If you are taking a Shingrix® vaccine from the pharmacy, make sure you talk to the pharmacist and the health care professional who will inject the vaccine about the storage and refrigeration requirements of the vaccine.

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