**GREY POWER NZ INC. SHINGLES VACCINE SUBMISSION**

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| **GREY POWER NZ INC. SHINGLES VACCINE SUBMISSION**To Dr Lindsay AnceletTherapeutic Group ManagerPHARMACPo Box 10254Wellington 6143Email: vaccines@pharmac.govt.nz **1. Introduction**1.1 This submission is made on behalf of the **Grey Power New Zealand Federation Inc.**1.2 The contact is Jo Millar – phone 03 455 4234 Email: donjomillar@gmail.com  1.3 The Grey Power New Zealand Federation (Inc) is a non-sectarian and non-party political, advocacy organisation that aims to advance, promote and protect the welfare and well-being of people 50 years old plus.  1.4 The Grey Power New Zealand Federation (Inc) is made up of some 75 individual Associations with an overall membership of approximately 68,000.**2. General Comments**2.1 Grey Power supports and has lobbied for subsidised or free Zoster vaccine for  older people because we understand that shingles;1. is becoming more prevalent in New Zealand,
2. may affect 40 per cent of people between the ages of 45-85, more women than men[[1]](#footnote-1) and for those over the age of 85 years the odds of contracting the infection move to 50 percent along with the likelihood of a more severe attack, [[2]](#footnote-2)
3. can progress to post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) which may cause severe pain, depression, fatigue and social isolation for months or even years after the shingles rash has disappeared,[[3]](#footnote-3)
4. vaccine side effects are usually quite minor,[[4]](#footnote-4)
5. vaccine can be administered at the same time as the influenza vaccine, therefore it will be more convenient for many older people.

Conclusion:Grey Power thanks PHARMAC for this opportunity to comment and support the free Zostavax vaccine for older people. We believe that although the efficacy rate decreases with age, because the vaccine side effects are minor, its provision with no charge to older people, coincides with our main objective ‘to advance, support and protect the welfare and well-being of older persons in New Zealand.’[[5]](#footnote-5)Written on behalf of Grey Power by Jan Pentecost – Co – Coordinator Grey Power Advocacy Standing Committee  |

1. https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110201122536.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Fuatai. T; *shingles risk on the rise,* NZ Herald; Feb 16, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.health.harvard.edu/pain/shingles-vaccination-pros-and-cons [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/03/health/03iht-snbrody.1.7730476.html [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Grey Power constitution p.6 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)