

Shingrix Vaccine UPDATE August 2023

On June 10, 2023 I wrote a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Health and Wellness, Michelle Thompson, requesting that Shingrix be provided free of charge to various age groups in the province.

A study in Ontario in 2020 compared the period when the shingles vaccination was publicly available to when it was only privately available. The study indicated that during the period when the vaccine was made available at no cost there was a decrease of 19% in the incidence of shingles cases and a 38% reduction in shingles related emergency department visits and hospitalizations. No reduction was found during the period when the vaccine was privately available.

In my letter I requested the Department conduct a study to determine the costs of providing the Shingles vaccine free of charge to citizens of various age groups in Nova Scotia and to determine the projected cost savings in the Nova Scotia health care system if the vaccine is provided free of charge.

The Shingles vaccine would be provided free of charge in instances where the study indicates that the cost savings to the health care system are equal to, and/or exceeds, the costs of providing the Shingles vaccine free of charge.

*Bill Berryman
Vice-Chair, Seniors Advisory Council*