

Considerations for patients aged **70-79** who are on DMARDs and/or steroids and are offered Zostavax via GP as part of the National vaccination programme

1. Vaccination **indicated** with any of the following as monotherapy **OR** in combination with Hydroxychloroquine **only**.*

- Sulfasalazine at any dose
- Prednisolone 10mg or less per day
- Methotrexate 0.4mg/kg/week →
- Azathioprine 3mg/kg/day

*GP should counsel patient that the risk of VZV reactivation is low

Weight (kg)	Max Dose MTX (mg/week)
<40	Calculate at 0.4mg/kg
50-56	20
57-61	22.5
>/=62	25

2. Relative **contraindication**:

- Prednisolone >10mg/day for 2 or more weeks should wait one month before vaccination
- Prednisolone >40mg/day for >1/52 should wait 3 months before vaccination
- Leflunomide 10 - 20mg/day as monotherapy**

** There is no data to demonstrate safety of vaccination on Leflunomide and cases should be discussed on an individual basis with microbiology

3. Vaccination **contraindicated**:

- Combination therapy not mentioned in the green box (above).
- Use of Mycophenolate mofetil or Ciclosporin or Gold.
- Cyclophosphamide given or planned *within* 3 months of vaccine
- Any anti-rheumatic **Biologic** therapy (see BNF 10.1.3)

4. Non-Rheumatic **contraindications**:***

- Current bone marrow or lymphatic disorder
- Untreated active TB
- Cellular immune deficiency incl. neutropaenia, hypogammaglobulinaemia
- HIV
- Pregnancy
- Anaphylactic reaction to components including neomycin, gelatin

***for further information refer to Dept of Health Green book Chapter 28a

References:

- The Green Book, Chapter 28a & 34, Department of Health
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- BSR statement on Zostavax
http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2013/i/immunisation_with_zostavax_for_people_with_inflammatory_rheumatic_disease.pdf
- ACR varicella vaccination guidelines
https://www.rheumatology.org/publications/hotline/2008_08_01_shingles.asp
- Jie Zhang, Fenglong Xie, Elizabeth Delzell, Lang Chen, Kevin L. Winthrop, James D. Lewis, Kenneth G. Saag, John W. Baddley, Jeffrey R. Curtis. Association Between Vaccination for Herpes Zoster and Risk of Herpes Zoster Infection Among Older Patients With Selected Immune-Mediated Diseases. JAMA, 2012 July; 308 (1):43-49.
- ALLISON L. SMITTEN, HYON K. CHOI, MARC C. HOCHBERG, SAMY SUISSA, TERESA A. SIMON, MARCIA A. TESTA, AND K. ARNOLD CHAN. The Risk of Herpes Zoster in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis in the United States and the United Kingdom. Arthritis & Rheum, 2007 Dec; 57(8):1431–38