

## **Increasing Awareness of Shingles and the Shingles Vaccine Through a Collaborative Effort with a Midwestern Retail Pharmacy.**

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**Purpose:** Quality improvement project to increase knowledge and awareness of shingles and Shingrix at a Midwestern pharmacy through a staff education program.

**Background:** One in three Americans will get herpes zoster in their lifetime (CDC, 2017). Post herpetic neuralgia is the most common complication of shingles and occurs when the pain persists for months after the rash resolves (Rampakakis et al., 2017). Despite the availability of a vaccination against herpes zoster, a 2015 review revealed that only 31.89% of eligible adults were vaccinated against shingles (Lu, O'Halloran, Williams & Harpaz, 2017). In October 2017, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendation was expanded to include vaccination of all adults age 50 or older with the herpes zoster subunit vaccine Shingrix (CDC, 2017).

**Methods:** An anonymous survey was administered to all staff members at a Midwestern chain pharmacy to assess perceived barriers to vaccination. Once barriers were identified, education for the pharmacy staff was developed to counteract these barriers. A posttest survey assessed the knowledge gained by the pharmacy staff.

**Results:** 45 staff members responded to the original survey. Time, cost, and supply were determined to be the biggest barriers. Two locations were selected to receive staff education. Attempts at a live presentation were unsuccessful, so the presentation was recorded and distributed through email. A posttest survey had 12 responses and revealed increased staff knowledge.

**Conclusion:** Pharmacies are an effective and trusted place for vaccination. Targeted staff education on specific vaccines should lead to an increase in overall vaccination administration rates over time.