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**THE BOARD OF REGISTRATON IN PHARMACY  
ADVISORY ON ZOSTAVAX IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Board wishes to remind registrants of the regulations regarding vaccine administration:

**105 CMR 700.004(B)(6) and M.G.L. c 112 section 24G**

The regulations allow pharmacists to administer vaccines approved by the Department to adults 18 years and older by prescription and / or standing order. The Department of Public Health Drug Control Program and Board of Registration in Pharmacy issued guidance on vaccine administration via a joint policy, which was recently amended (see link below). Vaccines covered by the policy include **only those listed in the Adult immunizations Schedule.**

**2015-01 JOINT POLICY and FAQs on PHARMACIST ADMINISTRATION of VACCINES**

The vaccines covered under this policy are those vaccines included in the most recent Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule – United States approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule is published at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/>.

According to the CDC:

Update on Herpes Zoster Vaccine: Licensure for Persons Aged 50 Through 59 Years  
Herpes zoster vaccine (Zostavax, Merck & Co., Inc.) was licensed and recommended in 2006 for prevention of herpes zoster among adults aged 60 years and older. In March 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of Zostavax in adults aged 50 through 59 years. In June 2011, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) **declined to recommend the vaccine for adults aged 50 through 59 and reaffirmed its current recommendation that herpes zoster vaccine be routinely recommended for adults aged 60 years and older.**

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6044a5.htm>

Based on the fact that ACIP declined to amend the adult immunization schedule to include 50-59 year old for Zoster, Pharmacists / Pharmacy Interns are ONLY currently allowed to administer Zoster to adults 60 years and older.

**Required Action:**

If your pharmacy has been administering Zostavax vaccinations to patients aged 50 to 59 years of age, the practice must **cease immediately.** Pharmacists or pharmacy interns may only administer zostavax vaccinations via a prescription or standing order to patients 60 years and older.