



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

October 24, 2018

Hon. Pauline Frost
Minister of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Frost,

RE: Coverage for Herpes Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine

I am writing to you in regards to a gap in Pharmacare coverage that Yukon seniors are currently facing. In order for seniors to be vaccinated against the herpes zoster, or shingles, virus, they are required to pay the full cost of the vaccine. This vaccine is not affordable for the majority of seniors, many of whom are on fixed incomes and unable to spend hundreds on a vaccination.

There are currently two vaccines used as preventative measures against shingles. As we know, shingles can affect people of any age, but is most common in adults aged 50 years and older. Shingles has been reported to be extremely painful for those who become infected. Further, there are a number of complications that can arise as a result of shingles. This in turn places an increased strain on hospitals, which already face bed pressures.

Seniors that are vaccinated against shingles are able to increase the likelihood that they remain healthy in their homes and avoid coming down with a preventative illness that can compromise their immune systems and cause a decline in their overall health.

Because older adults and people with already weakened immune systems are at a higher risk for developing shingles, I would ask that you consider covering the vaccine for those individuals, should they choose to receive it.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Patti McLeod
MLA Watson Lake