



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH BENEFITS

Shingles

"Shingles can be extremely painful and it is preventable. When it happens, treatment requires immediate medical care and antiviral drugs. Many First Nations clients live in remote areas where it's difficult to get this quick treatment. We also know that there are cultural safety issues with some of our Elders that impede them from seeking the urgent response this condition requires."

- Dr. Evan Adams, Chief Medical Officer, First Nations Health Authority

Shingrix® Vaccine Coverage

- Coverage is for eligible Health Benefits clients (<https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/eligibility>) who are between the ages of 65 and 69.
- The 65 to 69-year-old age group was selected for the benefit coverage because the vaccine has a high impact on this age group. People in this age group are more likely to get shingles and to have higher rates of hospitalization from shingles.
- The vaccine may be administered by a pharmacist, community health nurse (CHN), or physician. It requires two doses to be fully effective.

Client Reimbursement Process

If you are a First Nations client eligible for Health Benefits, between the ages of 65 to 69, and you received Shingrix® vaccinations on or after Oct. 1, 2018, you may submit a claim for reimbursement to the FNHA.

- 1) Please fill out the Client Reimbursement form:
https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/Client_Reimbursement_Form.pdf
- 2) If a First Nations organization paid for the vaccine for you, please fill out the section of the reimbursement form called "Part 2 – Parent, Guardian or Person to whom payment should be made," to direct the reimbursement to the First Nations organization.
- 3) Attach the official pharmacy receipt(s) provided by your pharmacy (not the credit card or debit/ Interac slips).
- 4) Mail the completed reimbursement form and the official pharmacy receipt(s) to:

First Nations Health Authority
Health Benefits
540 – 757 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 1A1

Nursing Process

BC First Nations Health Service organizations with Registered Nurses (RN) who have current Immunization Competency Program (ICP) certification are eligible to obtain Shingrix® for their community members. If a community does not have an ICP-certified RN, it can partner with another community, local public health nurse, or pharmacist to deliver the vaccinations. The reimbursement for this vaccine is client-specific, and community health nurses and pharmacist will need to follow the above **Client Reimbursement Process**, filling out the information about the First Nations organization in **Part 2** of the Client Reimbursement Form.

Questions? RNs and CHNs can contact Health Protection at immunize@fnha.ca.

Exceptional review for clients outside the 65 to 69 age group

For case-by-case review, the request must:

- Include supporting medical documentation with rationale from a prescriber, such as a physician or nurse practitioner, and;
- Be faxed to FNHA Health Benefits at 1.888.299.9222 in its entirety.

Clients with any questions about Shingrix® coverage are encouraged to contact First Nations Health Benefits at 1.855.550.5454 or email healthbenefits@fnha.ca

The FNHA is working on a solution to support Shingrix® billing at the pharmacy counter so that clients do not need to pay up front and seek reimbursement.