

## Why did HIQA undertake this review?

Following on from our health technology assessment of herpes zoster vaccination in 2024, HIQA began this scoping review to examine emerging evidence suggesting that the shingles vaccine may be associated with a lower risk of dementia.



## What did we examine?

Our scoping review looked at three questions.

Is there a link between:

- shingles and dementia?
- shingles vaccination and dementia?
- adult vaccination generally and dementia?



## What did we find?

1. Some studies reported that shingles increases the risk of dementia, while others reported no clear link.

2. The available studies reported fewer cases of dementia in people with a history of shingles vaccination, or in groups who were eligible for vaccination, compared with those who were not. While these studies can show a link, they cannot prove that shingles vaccination reduces dementia risk.

3. Many reviews showed that other adult vaccines, including influenza, are also linked with a lower risk of dementia. Again, they cannot prove that vaccination alone resulted in lower risk.



## What does this mean?

The risk of dementia may be lower in people who have had shingles vaccination, although the current evidence is not strong enough to say that the vaccine directly reduces the risk of dementia or by how much.

We will consider this evidence alongside any new evidence of the clinical effectiveness and safety of shingles vaccination in the context of our 2024 HTA.

