

ALERT: Zostavax®

September 2020

Zostavax® should not be used in people with compromised immune function

Zostavax® should not be used in people with compromised immune function, as it is associated with a risk of complications (including death) from infection with the live, attenuated varicella-zoster vaccine virus.

This can occur in patients who are on low dose immunomodulation and careful pre-screening and a risk-based assessment should occur prior to Zostavax® administration.

The **Australian Immunisation Handbook** contains information about Zostavax® screening and administration in special populations, including patients who are immunocompromised or have medical conditions that place them at risk of immunocompromise.

The latest TGA Safety Advisory regarding Zostavax® vaccine can be viewed at www.tga.gov.au/alert/zostavax-vaccine-0

Regards,

Queensland Immunisation Program