

# The News Register

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*“Intra-organization Communication is the Life-Blood of our organization.”*

**Just Ask:** *This is a new segment for the News Register where we will attempt to answer your questions.*

**Q . Does our healthcare plan cover the Shingles vaccination?**

A. Yes. The AT&T Medical Plan covers immunizations as part of “physician’s office services – preventive care”. This means that the Shingles vaccination, known as Zostavax, would be covered by the AT&T Medical Plan, **if given by a physician in the physician’s office.**

However, while both Medicare and the AT&T Healthcare Plan cover seasonal flu shots, Medicare does **not** cover the Shingles vaccination. So for retirees who are Medicare eligible, claims for this vaccination must be processed by the AT&T Medical Plan since Medicare will deny claims for the Zostavax vaccination.

## **Caution**

The vaccination must be given by a physician in a physician’s office in order to have UHC pay the claim. Since the Zostavax vaccine is expensive and must be kept refrigerated some physicians do not keep it in their offices and may refer you to a clinic. Be sure to check with UHC for preapproval if you go to a clinic.

Many retirees have complained that when Medicare denies a claim, United Healthcare automatically does the same. So it may be necessary to call UHC, request the claim resolution department and remind them that this immunization should be covered.

*If you have a question you would like us to answer in the News Register, please send an email to [info@aaasbcr.org](mailto:info@aaasbcr.org)*