



Improving Recombinant Zoster Vaccination Rates in Patients Receiving Biologic Therapy in the Rheumatology Clinics at the Orlando VA Healthcare System.

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Problem Statement/ Background

- Herpes zoster is a painful rash that involves one to three adjacent dermatomes, secondary to reactivation of latent varicella-zoster virus (VZV).
- About 95 % of the U.S population has been exposed to VZV, and therefore are at risk of developing herpes zoster.
- Many patients with rheumatologic conditions are at higher risk for herpes zoster and related complications because of their immunocompromised state.
- Since 2017, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended the 2-dose series recombinant zoster vaccination (RZV) in all immunocompetent adults aged ≥ 50 years.
- In 2021, this recommendation was expanded to include adults aged ≥ 18 years who are or will be immunodeficient or immunosuppressed because of disease or therapy.



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Current Condition

- Scope: Patients seen in the Rheumatology clinic at the Orlando VA Healthcare System on biologic medications or targeted synthetic DMARDs (JAK inhibitors)
- 808 patients aged ≥ 18 years who were prescribed biologics or JAK inhibitors in the past year (2/25/2021 – 2/25/2022)
- 67% (n=540) had not received RZV vaccination
- 418 of these patients were ≥ 50 years of age
- **Only 33% of our patients on biologic therapy have been appropriately vaccinated against VZV**



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Aim Statement

- Increase the number of biologic or JAK inhibitor treated patients who receive at least the first dose of the RZV vaccine to 50% by 10/1/22



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Root Cause Analysis

- Why do we miss Shingrix vaccines?
 - We focus on COVID vaccines first
 - We do not address it if age <50
 - Other priorities for rheumatology patients



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Interventions

- Pre-visit planning done by the rheumatology nurses and providers which includes screening for RZV vaccination
- Visual aid displayed in exam rooms encouraging patients to ask about RZV vaccination
- Providing education and counseling on the RZV vaccine at each clinic visit
- Presentation to rheumatology faculty about our baseline metrics and discussion about immunization recommendations for immunocompromised patients

**Are you up to
date with your
vaccines ?**

**Shingles can be a VERY painful
re-activation of the Chicken pox virus.**

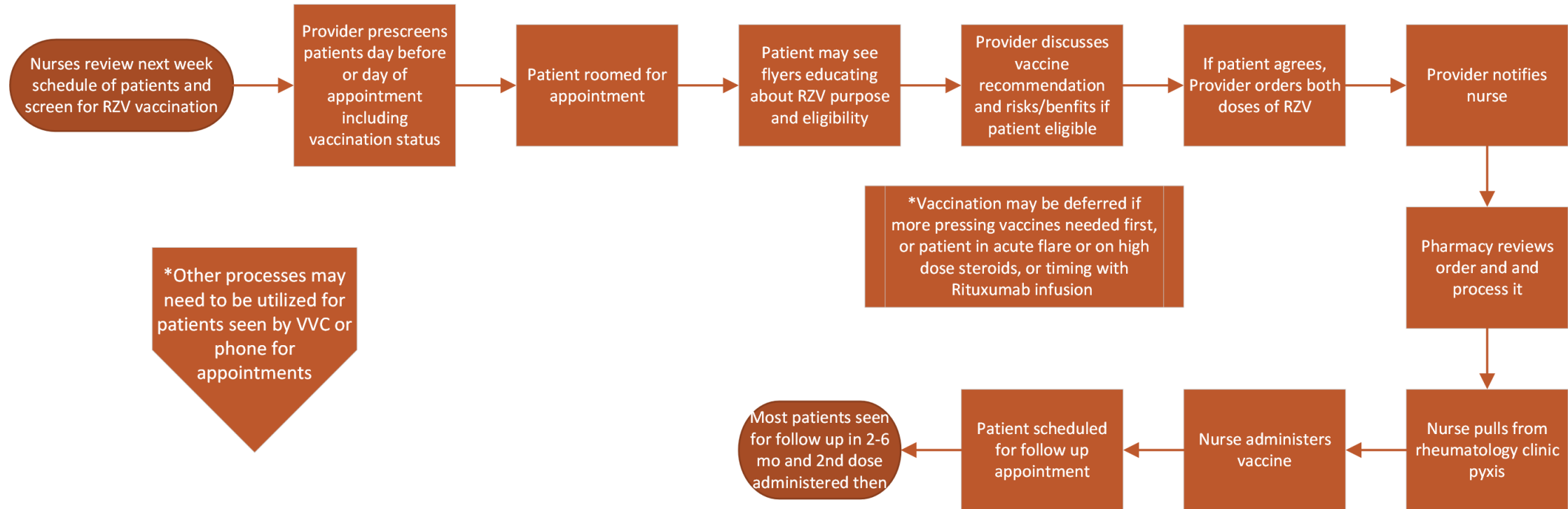
**Your rheumatology medications or
age may put you at risk!**

**Ask about the Shingrix
vaccine!**



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Ideal Process Map



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Next Steps

- Will continue to bring up topic at section meetings
- Collect data again 10/1/22 about RZV vaccination for patients on biologics seen in our clinic in the last year
 - Outcome metric: % of patients with RZV vaccination
 - Balancing metric: Patient and provider satisfaction



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