Introduction

- Zostavax, used to prevent shingles
- November 2016, Zostavax became free for patient 70 to <80
- Lower efficacy in the age group, but higher incidence of disease

Objective of the Study

The aim of this study was to generate visualizations of the trends in administration, and most importantly, the safety of the vaccine in this particular age group.

Methods

- NPS data collected across 529 different general practices throughout Australia
- 5 million patient records with 23,000 patients recorded for receiving Zostavax
- Used RStudio to generate graphs after a focus population was identified.

Results

- A marker to determine safety of Zostavax was to compare number of patient-physician encounters prior to and following day 0
- Encounter- a physician-patient interaction
- There is no change in the trend of visits after day 0

Discussion

- The patients that are receiving Zostavax are the patients who constantly visit their doctors as can be seen with the spike every 7 days.
- The older the person, the more likely an increase in encounters because of vaccination as can be see by graph 2.

Questions

- What is the uptake like for patients that do not constantly go to their general practitioners?
- Do number of encounters increase after vaccination if a patient has a certain condition?

Conclusion

- Generally, based on these visualizations, Zostavax is a safe vaccine for patients 70 to <80, even if used in conjunction with the influenza vaccine.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Telethon Kids Institute, Perth for allowing me to conduct research this summer. I would like to recognize my supervisors, Dr. Tom Snelling and Dr. Julie Marsh for their guidance and support throughout this project. Last but not least, I would like to thank CHW and the Health Grand Challenge Program for sponsoring this opportunity.