

How not to get a free shot for \$150

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Bill & Walter,

Here's another possible addition to our VA webpage.

LONG STORY

Got a flu vaccination and a shingles vaccination last fall at our local health department. They had my information for MEDICARE and TFL; flu had always been fully covered by both.

Finally got my EOB's this winter. Flu was again fully covered by both MC & TFL, but the shingles *vaccine* was not covered by MEDICARE and consequently not by TFL. My co-pay of \$150 was credited to my deductible by TFL. Weirdly, the shingles *vaccination* (giving the shot) was fully covered for about \$8.

Belatedly, I did my research. MEDICARE's website says that the shingles vaccine is not covered. TFL covers it at participating TRICARE network pharmacies, or at your doctor's office where you may have to pay TRICARE's deductible and cost share.

SHORTER STORY

For any vaccination that you might get, look at the TRICARE webpage about this at <https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/find-pharmacy>. Here's part of it that might be of benefit to others on MEDICARE and/or TFL:

Find a Participating Pharmacy Near You

More than 56,000 pharmacy locations are in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network, including national chains, grocery chains and independent pharmacies.

Search by ZIP code or enter a street address to find a pharmacy in your area.

[Find a Pharmacy](#)

Find a Pharmacy that Offers Vaccines

Vaccines administered at your retail pharmacy usually don't require an appointment and use the same effective medications as your physician's office.

- Some pharmacies on the list may have an on-site clinic that offers flu vaccines. Be sure to get your vaccine from the pharmacist, not from a health provider; to avoid possible out-of-pocket costs.
- Before you visit the pharmacy, call them to verify their current vaccination schedule, availability and any age restrictions. Phone numbers are available through our Find a Pharmacy feature.
- Be sure to present your military ID at the time of service.

Pays to look before getting shot.

Thanks,

Jerry