

Supplemental file 1. Data sources and type of data extracted for herpes zoster (HZ).

Data type	Data source	Period of data extraction	Extraction criteria	Extracted variables
Vaccinations against herpes zoster	National Immunization Registry	2003–2012	All registered herpes zoster vaccinations	Patient ID, age, sex, type of vaccine, a date of vaccination for each received dose
Primary healthcare contacts	Norwegian Health Economics Administration	2008–2014	All registered contacts as coded by herpes zoster code S70 by the International Classification for Primary Care, Second edition (ICPC-2)	Patient ID, age, sex, information on care provider (General Practitioner, emergency clinic), and type of diagnosis (primary, secondary)
Hospital contacts	Norwegian Patient Registry	2008–2014	All registered contacts as coded by varicella codes B02—B029 by the International Classification of Diseases - tenth edition (ICD-10)	Patient ID, age, sex, date of admission and discharge, type of hospital care (inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory care)*, outcome of hospital stay, accompanying non-herpes zoster diagnoses coded by the ICD-10 codes.
Deaths	Cause of Death Registry	1996–2012	All registered deaths with herpes zoster codes B02—B029 by the International Classification of Diseases - tenth edition (ICD-10)	Anonymous data with age, sex, date of death and accompanying non-herpes zoster diagnoses
Viral infections of CNS	Norwegian Surveillance System for Communicable Diseases	1997–2012	All reported viral infections of CNS, including those caused by varicella zoster virus.	Patient ID, age, sex, sample type (e.g. cerebrospinal fluid), date of sampling, laboratory method (polymerase chain reaction (PCR), culture), etiologic agent, the name of the laboratory where the sample was tested, and type of report (clinician and/or laboratory-based report).

\*inpatient – is a patient who stayed at the hospital more than 5 hours; outpatient – a patient who stayed at the hospital less than 5 hours; ambulatory care – a care that requires more resources than in outpatient, but patient does not overnight in the hospital.