



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care



National
Immunisation
Program

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

National Immunisation Program 2025 maternal respiratory syncytial virus vaccination

KEY INFORMATION

- From 3 February 2025, the National Immunisation Program will make a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine available and free to eligible pregnant women.
- RSV is a highly infectious virus that is the most common cause of respiratory infections in children, with almost all children being infected at least once in their first 2 years of life.
- RSV vaccination is particularly important in pregnancy. Research shows that maternal vaccination reduces the risk of severe RSV illness in infants under 6 months of age by around 70%.
- States and territories will offer an RSV immunisation product to eligible infants and children.
- The maternal RSV vaccine can be co-administered (given on the same day) with whooping cough and influenza vaccines.
- All NIP vaccines administered must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to advise you that from 3 February 2025 the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, Abrysvo[®], will be listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP). Eligible women who are at 28 to 36 weeks pregnancy will be able to receive the maternal RSV vaccine for free through the NIP, to protect their infant against RSV from birth and in their first few months of life.

RSV, a highly infectious virus, is the most common cause of respiratory infections in children, and poses a significant risk to infants in their first 6 months of life. Infants with medical risk factors, such as being born very preterm at under 32 weeks gestation, have an increased risk of severe RSV disease. However, up to 80 percent of infants and children who are hospitalised are otherwise healthy children with no predisposing conditions.

The maternal RSV vaccine's availability through the NIP is a critical component of the national approach to RSV programs in 2025. It complements state and territory RSV programs that provide access to the RSV immunisation product, Beyfortus[™] (nirsevimab), to all infants born to mothers who did not receive a dose of maternal Abrysvo[®] during pregnancy or who have other risk factors.

The Commonwealth is committed to working with states and territories to reduce the pressure placed on health services by RSV infection in childhood. The comprehensive maternal and infant RSV protection programs will contribute significantly to ensuring a coordinated approach to safeguarding infants against RSV and improving the health of Australia's children.

To prepare for the NIP maternal RSV vaccine program commencement, I ask that you:

- **Order** the RSV maternal vaccine, Abrysvo[®], through the usual channels in your state or territory.
- **Promote** the free vaccine to eligible pregnant women, emphasising your recommendation as a trusted health professional.
- **Consider** opportunities to co-administer the RSV vaccine with the recommended whooping cough and influenza vaccines where appropriate.
- **Ensure** vaccine safety by verifying you are correctly administering the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine to your patient.
- **Report** all RSV and NIP vaccines you administer to the Australian Immunisation Register.
- **Stay informed** by subscribing to the NIP mailing list for the latest [NIP updates](#).

I strongly encourage you to review the attached information, including the program advice and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), in conjunction with the [Australian Immunisation Handbook RSV chapter](#). I kindly request your assistance in distributing this important information throughout your networks.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact immunisation.enquiries@health.gov.au.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and contribution to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Yours sincerely



Professor Anthony Lawler
Chief Medical Officer

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Encl. 2025 NIP RSV program advice for health professionals
2025 NIP RSV vaccination consumer factsheet
NIP RSV frequently asked questions