

RSV vaccination during pregnancy - Abrysvo[®]

Information for consumers

OFFICIAL

What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common virus that can cause respiratory infections from mild colds to severe illnesses. It affects people of all ages, but especially infants and young children.

RSV is easily spread, and most children will get an RSV infection by the time they are 2 years old. In Australia, RSV infection is the most common cause of infant hospitalisation because it can often progress to pneumonia (infection of the lungs) or bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lungs) in very young children.

Those at greatest risk for serious RSV disease include:

- infants under 6 months of age, especially those under 3 months
- infants and young children aged 2 years and under with certain medical risk conditions for severe RSV disease
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 2 years and under.

Why should I get the RSV vaccine in pregnancy?

Maternal vaccination is the safest means of protecting infants and children against RSV.

When the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine is given in pregnancy, the mother will create protective antibodies and pass these to their baby through the placenta. This helps to protect their newborn baby from birth and in its first few months of life. Immunisation in pregnancy reduces the risk of severe RSV illness in infants under 6 months of age by around 70%.

Is Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine free under the National Immunisation Program?

Eligible women from 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy will be able to access free Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) from February 2025. To get access to free NIP vaccines you must hold, or be eligible for, a Medicare card.

Some providers might charge a fee for giving the vaccine.

How is the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine given?

A single dose of the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine, is recommended at the 28-week antenatal check, but can be given from 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy. It is given by injection into the muscle, usually in the deltoid muscle of the upper arm.

OFFICIAL

Can I have the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

You can safely receive the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine at the same time as other vaccines recommended in pregnancy, including influenza, whooping cough, and COVID-19 vaccines.

Is the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine safe?

The Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine is safe for you and your baby. The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration assesses all vaccines, products, and medicines before they are approved for use in Australia.

What are the side effects of the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine?

Common side effects from the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine include mild pain, redness or swelling where the injection was given, tiredness and headaches. These usually last for a few days and go away without any treatment. Serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction, are rare.

Consumers can report unexpected or rare side effects to [SAEFVIC](https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC) <<https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC>>.

How will the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccination be recorded?

Once you receive the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine, it will be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and the Victorian maternity record to ensure your immunisation history is complete and accurate.

You can access your AIR immunisation history statement at [MyGov](http://www.my.gov.au/) <<http://www.my.gov.au/>>, by logging into your [Medicare online account](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare-online-account) <<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare-online-account>>.

If you do not have a myGov account or a Medicare online account, you will need to [set them up](#) first, and link your Medicare online account to myGov <<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-to-set-up-your-medicare-online-account?context=22751>>.

What if I missed getting the Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine?

In 2025, Victoria will fund a long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody, nirsevimab (Beyfortus[™]) for newborns and infants whose mothers **did not** receive Abrysvo[®] RSV vaccine, and for those with certain risk conditions. Nirsevimab for infants will be available between 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025.

Nirsevimab can protect newborn babies and young children from severe RSV disease. Your immunisation provider will be able to advise you if your child is recommended to receive nirsevimab.

How can I learn more?

To find out more about RSV and immunisation, ask your health care provider or visit [Better Health Channel | Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv) <<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>>.

Read about the [National Immunisation Program](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule) and Medicare eligibility at <<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule>>

To receive this document in another format, email the [Immunisation Program](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au)
<immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>.

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health, January 2025.