

RSV vaccination for pregnant women

From early 2025, pregnant women will be offered [a single dose of RSV vaccine \(Abrysvo\)[®]](#) provided free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) at 28-36 weeks of pregnancy. Maternal RSV vaccine is administered mainly to protect newborn infants.

The **Abrysvo[®] vaccine** is the only RSV vaccine approved for use in **pregnant woman**. **Arexvy[®] should not** be administered to pregnant women as it is **only registered for use in adults aged ≥60 years**. Please review the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for further advice.

RSV is a serious disease for newborn babies and it infects their nose, throat, and lungs. It is a leading cause of children going to hospital. Getting a vaccination in pregnancy reduces the risk of severe RSV disease in infants less than 6 months of age by about 70%.

The inclusion of the RSV vaccine on the NIP is a step towards a consistent national approach to protecting infants from RSV in 2025. Vaccinations will be available in 2025, the start date of the program will be announced as soon as possible.

Until the program commencement date, Abrysvo[®] is only available on the private market and cannot be reimbursed through the NIP.

The RSV vaccine will be funded on the NIP in addition to the **whooping cough (pertussis)** and **influenza** vaccines, already available for free through the [NIP for pregnant women](#).

Infant RSV program in 2025

NSW will be rolling out the [2025 RSV prevention program for infants](#) from mid-March next year. Infants will be able to receive a free immunisation to protect them against serious illness from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The RSV prevention program will see the NSW Government fund nirsevimab (Beyfortus), a type of monoclonal antibody immunisation, for infants who are not protected through maternal vaccination, and those at increased risk of severe RSV.

Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) antenatal indicator

From 7 December 2024, there will be changes to [recording immunisation encounters](#) using the AIR.

The available options in the **Vaccine Type** field will change: 'State Program' and 'Private' options will be removed and 'Other' will be added.

A new **antenatal indicator** will be added to the AIR which will allow providers to report if the person is pregnant at the time of vaccine administration. A new warning message will appear when **Antenatal** is selected for individuals outside the approved age group or recorded gender.

Contact your software vendor to find out when the software will be updated to reflect the changes.