

## Advice for GPs, Aboriginal Medical Services and Community Health

### Please distribute to all doctors, nurses, midwives and other staff in your service

1. From **Monday 3 March 2025**, nirsevimab (brand name *Beyfortus™*), a long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody, will be available to order from the NSW State Vaccine Centre for the 2025 NSW RSV Prevention Program.
2. RSV activity is increasing in NSW. To protect children from RSV, begin offering nirsevimab to eligible infants and children as soon as nirsevimab doses are available in your service.
3. Familiarise yourself with the nirsevimab eligibility and dosing requirements.
4. Continue to recommend a single dose of Abrysvo® to **all** pregnant women year round preferably at the 28-week antenatal appointment (recommended 28 to 36 weeks gestation) to protect infants against RSV from birth.

### Commencement of the 2025 NSW RSV Prevention Program - infant nirsevimab program

- NSW Health has received an early shipment of nirsevimab for the 2025 RSV Prevention Program.
- Ordering for the 2025 NSW RSV Prevention Program - infant nirsevimab program will now open from **9am on Monday 3 March 2025**, one week ahead of schedule (originally 10 March 2025).
- NSW Health is funding nirsevimab for eligible infants and children to provide them with immediate protection from serious RSV illness. The minimum duration of protection provided by a single dose of nirsevimab is 5 months.
- RSV activity is increasing in NSW. Eligible infants and children should be offered nirsevimab before the program start date of 17 March 2025 and as soon supply of nirsevimab is available in your service/practice.
- Report all doses of nirsevimab to the Australian Immunisation Register. The AIR accepts records of nirsevimab (Beyfortus™ - BFRSV) and Abrysvo® (ABRSV).

### Children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease and children eligible for catch up are recommended to receive nirsevimab

- Children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV entering their second RSV season and children eligible for catch up will be able to access nirsevimab from their general practitioner (GP), Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS), and some community health centres that offer immunisations and outpatient services offering nirsevimab to at risk eligible infants.
- Clinical decision aids are available to determine an infant's eligibility to receive nirsevimab at birth or for children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV or require catch up.

### Eligible neonates should be vaccinated prior to discharge from hospital

Babies not protected through maternal RSV vaccination or with risk factors for severe RSV are recommended to receive nirsevimab. All eligible newborn infants will be offered nirsevimab prior to discharge from hospital.

Refer to the [NSW Health RSV Prevention Program - Clinician Guide](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/respiratory-syncytial-virus.aspx) for further eligibility information and program resources at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/respiratory-syncytial-virus.aspx>

## Ordering

From **Monday 3 March 2025** GPs, AMSs and community health centres can order nirsevimab for eligible children using the '*nirsevimab order form*' on the NSW Vaccine Centre web portal. One form for each child must be completed indicating the patient's eligibility to receive nirsevimab.

Consider strategies to identify and recall eligible infants. Please ensure the order form is completed ahead of the patient's appointment. Routine delivery timeframes apply.

## Nirsevimab dosing and administration

- Nirsevimab is available in a 50mg 0.5mL prefilled syringe with a purple plunger rod and a 100mg in 1mL prefilled syringe with a light blue plunger rod.
- There are differences in the recommended dosage of nirsevimab for infants and children in their first and second RSV season.

- **First RSV season** – based on body weight at the time of dosing

Body weight at time of dosing	Recommended dosage
Less than 5kg	50mg by intramuscular (IM) injection
5kg and greater	100mg by IM injection (2x 50mg of nirsevimab can be used)

- **Second RSV season** – for children up to 24 months of age 200mg is recommended regardless of weight (2 x100mg IM injections given at the same visit at different injection sites).
- Sanofi, the manufacturer of nirsevimab, has developed a range of resources to support immunisation providers including an easy guide to dosing information and fridge stickers. The resources can be accessed at the Sanofi Vaxiplace webpage at [www.vaxiplace.com.au/login?destination=/beyfortus](http://www.vaxiplace.com.au/login?destination=/beyfortus)

## All pregnant women should be encouraged to be vaccinated with Abrysvo.

- Achieving high maternal RSV vaccination coverage will ensure all infants are protected from RSV from birth up to 6 months of age.
- All pregnant women are recommended to receive a single dose of Abrysvo® between 28 to 36 weeks gestation year-round and is free under the National Immunisation Program.
- Abrysvo® should be offered year-round at the 28-week antenatal appointment to ensure high level of antibodies are transferred to the baby before birth and maximise protection for babies who are born prematurely. If not given at 28 weeks, Abrysvo® should be given at the earliest next opportunity.

## Resources

- [Australian Immunisation Handbook respiratory syncytial virus](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv) at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>
- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) immunisation | NCIRS](https://ncirs.org.au/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-immunisation) including clinical FAQs, webinars and clinical guidance on RSV immunisation product administration errors at <https://ncirs.org.au/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-immunisation>