

Abrysvo respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine administration errors – vaccine incorrectly given to children

Information for GPs in NSW - please distribute to all staff



1. Do not administer any RSV vaccine to children as they are not registered for use in children.
2. Abrysvo (RSV vaccine) is registered for use in pregnant women (funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)) and people aged 60 years and over (private market).
3. Take steps to prevent RSV vaccine administration errors.

NSW Health has received reports of Abrysvo® (RSV vaccine) incorrectly given to children

- Vaccine administration errors have occurred in general practice.
- All vaccine administration errors must be reported to your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Two RSV immunisation products are available under the NSW RSV Prevention Program to protect infants from RSV

1. Maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo)
 - Abrysvo is recommended and funded under the NIP for **use in pregnant women** at 28 to 36 weeks gestation.
 - Abrysvo is used for the prevention of RSV in infants through the transfer of maternal antibodies to the fetus during pregnancy.
2. Infant RSV immunisation (nirsevimab (brand name Beyfortus™))
 - Nirsevimab is a long-acting monoclonal antibody that provides passive immunity; it comes in a prefilled syringe ready for administration of either 50mg or 100mg presentations.
 - Nirsevimab is registered for the prevention of RSV lower respiratory tract disease in neonates and infants born during or entering their first RSV season, and children up to 24 months of age who remain at risk of severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

Abrysvo® (RSV vaccine) is not registered for use in children

- There are no RSV vaccines approved for use in children.
- Abrysvo® is licenced for use in pregnant women and individuals aged 60 and over.
- Arexvy®, another RSV vaccine available in the private market, is **only indicated for use in older adults aged 60 and over** and should not be administered to pregnant women or children.
- **Both Arexvy® and Abrysvo® require reconstitution prior to administration** – do not administer any RSV product to infants or children that requires reconstitution

Steps to prevent vaccine administration errors

- **Ensure all staff** are appropriately **trained and educated** about the available RSV vaccines and monoclonal antibody and for whom they are registered (see attached resource).
- **Clearly label Abrysvo NIP vaccines in the fridge** as for use in pregnant women ONLY; label any private supplies of Abrysvo or Arexvy as for use in adults 60 years and over ONLY
- **Nirsevimab** is supplied from the State Vaccine Centre for individual eligible infants – if you order nirsevimab for an infant label it with their name on receipt.
- **Before administering any vaccine, check** that you have the:
 - **right vaccine** (check vaccine name and indication).
 - **right person** (check the person's age)
 - **right time** (check eligibility if funded vaccine, gestation etc)
 - **right documentation** (report to the Australian Immunisation Register)

How to order nirsevimab

- To order nirsevimab for eligible children log into your vaccine account at <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/> and use the new nirsevimab order form to place an order. One form for each eligible infant is required.

For more information about the RSV prevention Program visit

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/respiratory-syncytial-virus.aspx>

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