

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Update



Health

Information for NSW General Practitioners

Please distribute to all medical and nursing staff

1. RSV activity is high in NSW, placing infants and the elderly at risk of hospitalisation.
2. NSW Health has a limited supply of monoclonal antibodies to protect vulnerable infants.
3. Vaccine for adults aged ≥ 60 years is available via private script.

Background

- Treatment of RSV infection is supportive; there are no established antiviral treatments.
- RSV notifications and bronchiolitis presentations to emergency departments have been high since March 2024; it is unknown how long activity will remain high.

Beyfortus™ in NSW – protecting vulnerable infants

- Beyfortus™ (nirsevimab) is a monoclonal antibody for infants that:
 - provides immediate passive immunisation for around 5 months
 - is 80% effective in preventing RSV- associated hospitalisation
 - is administered as a single intramuscular dose
 - is provided for all infants in some countries in Europe, and in Qld and WA.
- There is limited supply of Beyfortus™ in NSW prioritised for those at highest risk of severe RSV infection.
- Eligible infants in NSW in 2024 are those born after 31 October 2023 who:
 - were born at less than 37 weeks gestation
 - are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander infants
 - have significant cardiac, respiratory, immunological or other complex conditions (as determined by a paediatrician).
- Beyfortus™ is only available through hospitals and Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS).
- If your patient is eligible and did not receive a dose in hospital, please contact your local paediatric service or AMS.
- Further information at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/respiratory-syncytial-virus.aspx>.

Arexvy (GSK) – protecting vulnerable seniors

- Arexvy (GSK) is an adjuvanted recombinant vaccine that:
 - provides high levels of protection against severe RSV infection
 - is administered as a single intramuscular dose
 - is registered with the TGA for adults aged 60 years and over
 - is not funded by the NIP or PBS, but is available via private prescription
- ATAGI recommends Arexvy (GSK) for:
 - adults aged 75 years and over
 - Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander adults aged 60 years and over
 - adults aged 60 years and over with medical risk factors for severe RSV infection.
- The need for further doses in the future has not yet been established.
- ATAGI advice is available at: https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/atagi-statement-on-the-clinical-use-of-arexvy-rsv-pre-f3-vaccine-for-rsv_0.pdf.

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