



# 2025 WA Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infant and Maternal Immunisation Program

## Fact sheet – for WA providers

### What is RSV?

RSV causes illness in people of all ages, but infants aged less than 6 months are at a higher risk of severe disease.

RSV infections are often mild with symptoms similar to a common cold. RSV is one of the most frequent causes of coughs, colds and earaches. However, patients with RSV may also deteriorate rapidly, resulting in [bronchiolitis](#) and [pneumonia](#).

Hospital admission due to RSV is 8 times higher than admission from influenza among children aged younger than 1 year.

### What RSV immunisation programs are available in WA?

- **Option A – Abrysvo:** The maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) is funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) in 2025. Pregnant women are recommended to receive the RSV vaccine to protect infants from birth through to 6 months.
- **Option B – Beyfortus:** The WA Department of Health will continue to offer the infant RSV immunisation program to protect eligible infants most at risk from severe RSV disease. This program will run from 1 April to 30 September 2025. Beyfortus is an antibody that provides immediate protective immunity against RSV infection.

Both Abrysvo and Beyfortus can be accessed at participating birthing hospitals, GPs, Aboriginal medical services, and community health immunisation clinics. Community pharmacies will offer Abrysvo but not Beyfortus.

### Who is eligible for Abrysvo?

Abrysvo is available through the NIP for eligible women at 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy.

### Who is eligible for Beyfortus?

Beyfortus will be offered to:

- infants born between 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 whose mothers did not receive Abrysvo during pregnancy
- Aboriginal children born on or after 1 October 2023
- infants with specific high risk medical conditions (MRC) born on or after 1 October 2023. A full list of MRC is available on [RSV immunisation](#).

This eligibility is applicable statewide except for in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, where RSV immunisation is available to the above cohorts year round because of the increased risk of RSV transmission occurring outside the winter months.

**Note:** If a mother has received Abrysvo, Beyfortus is not recommended for the infant, unless the infant has a [high-risk condition](#), the mother is [immunocompromised](#), or the infant was born less than 2 weeks after the mother's Abrysvo vaccination.

### How effective are Abrysvo and Beyfortus?

Both Abrysvo and Beyfortus have been shown to significantly reduce the risk of RSV associated hospitalisation among infants. So far, they have not been compared in head-to-head trials and as such, it is not possible to determine if one is more effective than the other.

A clinical trial found that maternal Abrysvo vaccination reduced RSV associated hospitalisation in infants by 57 per cent over 6 months and was 70 per cent effective against severe medically attended RSV confirmed lower respiratory tract infection. A clinical trial of Beyfortus showed 77 per cent efficacy against both RSV hospitalisation and very severe medically attended RSV associated lower respiratory tract infection for up to 150 days after immunisation.

## How are Abrysvo and Beyfortus administered and can they be co-administered with other vaccines?

Both Abrysvo and Beyfortus are given as intramuscular (IM) injections. Abrysvo is administered into the deltoid and Beyfortus is given to infants in the outer part of the upper thigh.

Abrysvo can be safely co-administered with other antenatal vaccines.

Beyfortus can be co-administered with other routine childhood vaccines, including the Hepatitis B vaccine birth dose.

## Is there any training I need to undertake to administer Abrysvo or Beyfortus?

Training information can be found at [Immunisation education](#). A free online RSV education module is available, and completion of this module is mandatory for WA immunisation providers working under the Structured Administration Supply Arrangements (SASA).

## Are there any contraindications to receiving Abrysvo or Beyfortus?

The only absolute contraindications to Abrysvo use are:

- anaphylaxis after a previous dose of the same RSV vaccine
- anaphylaxis after any component of an RSV vaccine.

Pregnant women who are less than 28 weeks gestation are not yet recommended to receive Abrysvo.

The only absolute contraindications to Beyfortus use are:

- anaphylaxis after a previous dose of the same monoclonal antibody
- anaphylaxis after any component of a monoclonal antibody.

## Can an infant or young child receive Beyfortus when they are sick?

Immunisations should generally be deferred for individuals with a moderate or severe acute illness. This helps avoid diagnostic confusion that may arise between the underlying illness and possible side effects from the immunisation.

## What are the possible side effects of Abrysvo and Beyfortus?

Severe side effects after Abrysvo and Beyfortus are uncommon. The most common side effects for pregnant people who receive Abrysvo are injection site pain and fatigue. The most common side effects of Beyfortus include pain, redness, rash or swelling at the injection site. These are typically minor and will resolve within a few days.

## How do I report suspected adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)?

The WA Department of Health conducts ongoing safety monitoring for all immunisations, including Abrysvo and Beyfortus. The WA Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system is the centralised service for reporting any significant adverse events following immunisation. If you suspect a serious side effect after immunisation, you can report:

- online at [SAFEVAC](#) or
- call WAVSS on (08) 6456 0208 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday).

## Why is it important to report Immunisations to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)?

It is mandatory to report vaccinations provided through the NIP to the AIR.

Timely reporting to the AIR will ensure future care providers are able to accurately determine an individual's vaccination needs. Individuals will also have a complete record of their immunisations.

A detailed '[How to Report to the AIR](#)' online guide is available for WA providers.

## How do I order Abrysvo and Beyfortus?

Providers will be contacted via the WA Department of Health Vaccine Ordering account email addresses when the immunisation products are available for ordering.

## How do I store Abrysvo and Beyfortus?

The storage requirements are the same as other NIP vaccines. Refer to the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5](#). Store at +2°C to +8°C. Do not freeze. Protect from light. More information can be found at [Cold Chain Management](#).

## Where can I find more information?

The WA Department of Health materials are updated as required, so check this webpage regularly for up-to-date recommendations and advice on the RSV Infant and Maternal Immunisation program .

- Subscribe to the [Vaccine Updates](#) e-newsletter
- [RSV immunisation](#) – provider website and resources (WA Health)
- [RSV – statutory notification alert](#) (WA Health)
- [RSV Frequently Asked Questions](#) (NCIRS)
- [RSV immunisation](#) – consumer website, fact sheet and FAQs (HealthyWA).

For further information about Abrysvo, the maternal RSV vaccination, visit Pfizer Australia.



For further information about RSV disease, useful resources on the use of Beyfortus in practice and access to patient education materials, you can visit Sanofi Australia's RSV web page.



Scan the below QR code to view full product information.



Providers will need to enter their AHPRA number to access both Pfizer and Sanofi website content.

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