



Vaccine Update 454 – Updates to the WA Immunisation schedule and Handbook, immunisation among migrant populations

WA Immunisation schedule updated

The WA Immunisation schedule is updated and available now. The updates to the current version dated 1 September 2025 are summarised below:

1. Childhood pneumococcal vaccine

- Pneumococcal vaccine **Prevenar 20 has replaced Prevenar 13 and Pneumovax 23 on the childhood schedule.**
- Children under 5 years, who have:
 - not yet started their pneumococcal schedule should receive 3 doses of Prevenar 20.
 - previously received 1 or 2 doses of Prevenar 13 should receive Prevenar 20 for all subsequent doses to complete the recommended vaccination course (where required).
 - already completed a Prevenar 13 vaccination course who are due for a Pneumovax 23 booster should receive 1 dose of Prevenar 20 instead. Do not delay vaccination. If required, Pneumovax 23 can still be used (while stock is available).

2. Abrysvo upper gestational limit wording

Upper limit of 36 weeks removed. Abrysvo available to eligible women from 28 weeks gestation.

Updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook

Please be aware that the following amendments were made to the Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIH) on July 31:

- Respiratory syncytial virus:
 - Reflecting the age extension of Arexvy. This update includes a conditional recommendation for RSV vaccination among adults aged 50–59 years with medical conditions that increase the risk of severe RSV disease.
 - Addition of clinical guidance on managing RSV immunisation product administration errors.
 - The upper gestational age for RSV maternal vaccine (Abrysvo) administration during pregnancy has been changed “from 28–36 weeks gestation’ to ‘from 28 weeks gestation’.
 - Incorporation of updated Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) advice regarding the risk of Guillain–Barré syndrome (GBS) following vaccination for Abrysvo and Arexvy.
- Hepatitis B: minor updates to reflect coadministration of hepatitis B with other immunisation products, including RSV monoclonal antibody.

Several additional updates have been made to other chapters and pages. For full details, please refer to the Updates to the Handbook page of the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Immunisation among migrant populations

In Australia, a recent Global Health Promotion paper stressed the need for ‘timely, accurate vaccine-related information’ that is customised to migrants’ specific needs in order to achieve more equitable public health outcomes.

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Refugees and other humanitarian entrants of all ages can receive free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) if they did not receive them in childhood. The Australian Immunisation Handbook includes specific guidance on vaccination for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum.

WA Child and Adolescent Health offer immunisation services, as well as other services for refugees and humanitarian entrants. Adults can also access services through the Humanitarian Entrant Health Service.

If you work with migrant communities or know someone who may benefit, help spread the word.

- Visit HealthyWA for local immunisation services
- Share translated vaccine resources, such as those by the NIP and Sharing Knowledge about Immunisation (SKAI).
- Encourage catch-up vaccinations for those who may have missed out

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