



Introduction of new NHS vaccination programmes against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Following guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) ([weblink 1](#)), from 1 September 2024 there will be 2 new RSV vaccination programmes, during pregnancy for infant protection and for older adults.

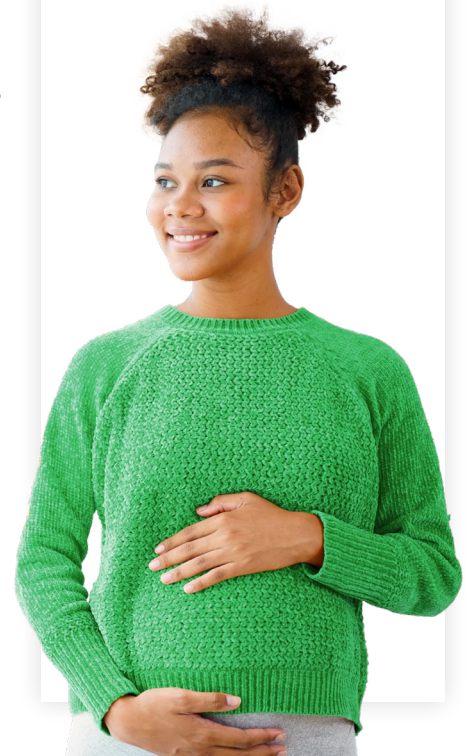
RSV has been described as “maybe the most common virus you have never heard of” by GP and journalist Dr Mark Porter. RSV, usually undiagnosed, will have caused great concern – and sometimes tragedy – for many parents whose babies have struggling to breathe and feed due to bronchiolitis or pneumonia. Twenty thousand infants are admitted to hospitals in England each winter due to RSV. The vast majority have no underlying medical conditions. Many need intensive care, and 20 to 30 die. RSV has wider impacts too, cancelling major paediatric surgery because critical care beds are needed to keep children with RSV breathing.

The maternal vaccine is a major step forward for child health. It offers 70% protection against severe RSV lower respiratory tract infection over the most vulnerable first 6 months of life. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has called it “game changing”.

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For older adults the clinical impact is less obvious – RSV can present as exacerbations of long-term conditions as well as acute respiratory infection syndromes – but it is no less serious. The latest estimates suggest around 80,000 GP attendances, around 9,000 admissions and over 2,000 deaths a year in the over 75s. Vaccine protection for older adults looks even more promising at around 80%. Monitoring is now being done internationally to see how for many years a single jab keeps older adults protected.

So, it is fantastic to be introducing life-saving RSV vaccines to the routine immunisation schedule:

- in every pregnancy in week 28 or soon after, to protect newborn babies
- at the age of 75 years, with a catch-up programme for current 75 to 79 year olds (age on 1 September 2024)

The RSV Pre-F vaccine (Abrysvo[®]) has already demonstrated a good safety profile in the USA where it has been given to around 300,000 pregnant women and 3 million older adults, and we expect it will have an important impact on RSV in England this season and beyond.

The success of this programme will be due to the vital work of teams across maternity services, GP surgeries and pharmacies, including everyone advising on or offering vaccination to patients and everyone organising vaccination, from inviting patients to ordering vaccine and supporting the clinical front line.

Thank you all in advance. This is an ambitious new immunisation programme against a heavyweight pathogen, and your work will make a vital difference.

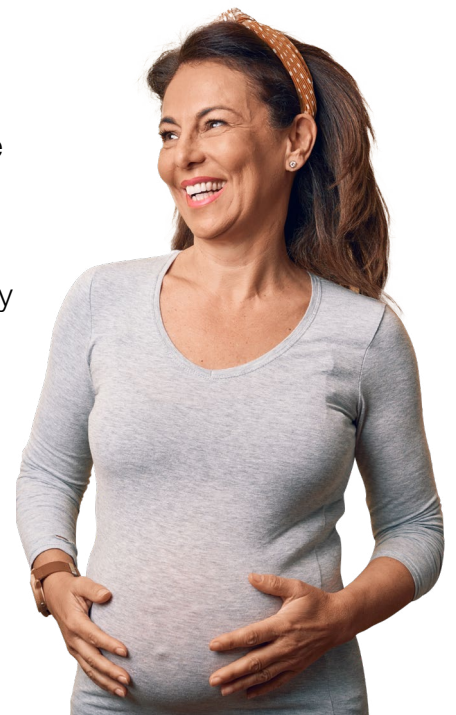
Programme for pregnant women to protect infants

All women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant on 1 September 2024 should be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine, through commissioned services. After that, pregnant women will become eligible as they reach 28 weeks gestation, and remain eligible up to birth. The ideal opportunity to offer vaccination would be at the 28-week antenatal contact (ANC), following prior discussion at the 20-week ANC. Providers should aim to vaccinate those already eligible on 1 September as soon as possible.

Programme for older adults aged 75 to 79 years old

All adults turning 75 years old on or after 1 September 2024 will be eligible for the routine programme and should be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine on or after their 75th birthday. A one-off catch-up campaign for those already aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 September 2024 should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity with the aim of completing the majority by 31 August 2025.

To offer the best protection, we are asking systems and providers to vaccinate as many people as possible during September and October 2024 prior to the expected RSV season. In line with JCVI guidance, individuals will remain eligible until the day before their 80th birthday, with the exception of people who turn 80 in the first year who have until 31 August 2025 to get vaccinated.



Information and guidance for healthcare practitioners in preparation for RSV vaccination

As there are two different RSV vaccination programmes starting in September (one for pregnant women for infant protection and a separate one for older adults), there are different supporting resources available for each. It is important that anyone involved in RSV immunisation is aware of which resources to use. More details on RSV and RSV vaccination are in the green book, chapter 27a: respiratory syncytial virus ([weblink 20](#)). Many clinical questions and scenarios are also addressed in the two information for healthcare practitioners guidance pages (see below and at [weblink 20](#)).

Training

As with any new programme, immunisers should have completed all the relevant training in line with the national minimum standards for immunisation ([weblink 3](#)) before vaccinating. Like many other UK routine immunisation programmes, UKHSA has produced specific slide sets to assist with training delivery. For both RSV programmes, these training slide sets can be found alongside many other RSV resources on the [gov.uk](#) immunisation collection website under the RSV immunisation section ([weblink 4](#)). These slide sets contain information about RSV, who it affects most severely and when, the JCVI recommendations about the vaccination programmes, the Abrysvo® RSV vaccine, how it works, preparation, administration and wider considerations. These slide sets are designed for both individual use and for use or adaptation during the delivery of RSV vaccination training. Trainers should select the slides required depending on the background and experience of the immunisers they are training and according to the role they will have in delivering the programme.

A direct link to the older adults RSV vaccine programme training slide set can be found at [weblink 5](#).

A direct link to the RSV vaccination of pregnant women for infant protection training slide set can be found at [weblink 6](#).

Ordering vaccines

Vaccines for the national RSV vaccination programmes should be ordered in England via the ImmForm website ([weblink 7](#)). Healthcare practitioners should refer to this website for current information on vaccine availability. As both programmes involve a year-round and not a seasonal offer of vaccination, vaccines should be ordered regularly throughout the year. To minimise wastage due to fridge failures or expiry, healthcare practitioners are reminded to order no more than 2 weeks' worth of stock rather than over-ordering or stockpiling vaccines. Vaccines should be ordered, stored and monitored as described in the green book chapter 3 (storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines) ([weblink 8](#)).

Please note, although the same Abrysvo® vaccine will be used for both the older adult and the vaccination of pregnant women programmes, they will be listed as separate items on ImmForm and the vaccine allocated for each programme should be managed independently where possible. More information can be found on ImmForm ([weblink 7](#)) and in the RSV bipartite letter at [weblink 9](#).

Patient Group Directions

Most RSV vaccines administered as part of the UK routine immunisation programmes will be administered under a Patient Group Direction (PGD). An RSV PGD template has been produced by UKHSA. It has been signed by a doctor, nurse and pharmacist, from UKHSA's national immunisation team, who have been involved in the PGD's development. You can view this on the PGD collection page of the [gov.uk](#) immunisation collection website ([weblink 10](#)). All PGD templates produced by UKHSA require further local authorisation in section 2 of the document before they can be used. These PGDs are not legal or valid without signed authorisation by an appropriate person (see the website for more information).

Vaccine preparation



Fig 1. Abrysvo® packaging and contents

The vaccine procured and recommended for use in both programmes is the Abrysvo® vaccine which is manufactured by Pfizer. Unlike any other vaccine currently in use in the UK routine immunisation schedule, Abrysvo® requires reconstitution using a vial adaptor (which is included in the pack contents, see fig 1). Immunisers are strongly advised to watch the manufacturer's instructional video ([weblink 11](#)) before preparing and administering the vaccine.

Information for healthcare practitioner guidance

Healthcare practitioner information and guidance to support both the RSV programme for the older adults programme and the vaccination of pregnant women to protect infants programme has been produced and can be accessed on the RSV page of the UKHSA immunisation collection website ([weblink 4](#)).

The information for healthcare practitioners' guidance pages are useful, practical resources and are recommended reading for healthcare practitioners involved in administering or providing advice about RSV vaccination. They include information about the vaccination programme and examples of questions and scenarios which may arise for staff involved in delivering the RSV vaccination programmes. The information for healthcare practitioners' guidance for the older adults programme can be found at [weblink 12](#).

The information for healthcare practitioners guidance for the vaccination of pregnant women for infant protection programme can be found at [weblink 13](#).

RSV publications



It's time for your RSV vaccine poster

Available to print and download for free using product code RSVOAEN from the Health Publications website ([weblink 14](#))



RSV leaflet for older adults

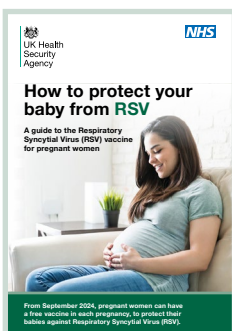
Available to print and download for free using product code C24RSV01EN from the Health Publications website ([weblink 15](#))

This leaflet is available in the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), Dari, Estonian, Farsi, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Nepali, Panjabi, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Romany, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrinya, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, Urdu, Yiddish and Yoruba. It is also available in large print, Braille, as an audio download and a British Sign Language video.



RSV maternal vaccination programme poster

Available to print and download for free using product code RSVPGEN from the Health Publications website ([weblink 16](#))



RSV maternal vaccination programme leaflet

Available to print and download for free using product code C24RSV03EN from the Health Publications website ([weblink 17](#))

This leaflet is available in the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), Dari, Estonian, Farsi, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Nepali, Panjabi, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Romany, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrinya, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, Urdu, Yiddish and Yoruba. It is also available in large print, Braille, as an audio download and a British Sign Language video.

Please note that stickers for the RSV vaccine will be developed in due course.

Vaccine supply

Routine vaccination programme

Introduction of Abrysvo® RSV vaccine for older adults and during pregnancy for infant protection

From 1 September 2024, RSV programmes will be introduced for older adults and during pregnancy for infant protection. The same RSV vaccine, Abrysvo®, will be used for both programmes.

Abrysvo® is now available to order via ImmForm. Scottish customers should refer to local ordering guidance.

Abrysvo® ordered via ImmForm will be supplied as a single-dose pack, containing one vial of vaccine, diluent for reconstitution and patient information leaflet.

Each pack will also contain one 25G x 25mm (1 inch) needle. Guidance on the choice of needle size can be found in chapter 4 of the green book ([weblink 18](#)). If required, other sizes of needles should be obtained locally.

The pack of Abrysvo® vaccine is physically larger than most other vaccines supplied via ImmForm. Please ensure you have enough fridge capacity before placing any orders. To help with planning storage requirements, each single-dose pack measures 73mm x 35mm x 116mm (H x W x D).

When ordering Abrysvo®, orders should be placed for the ImmForm product that is specific to each RSV protection programme.

Product ordered for the infant RSV protection programme (offered to pregnant women) should not be used for the older adult RSV protection programme and vice versa. Account holders will see two different product lines and should order accordingly (as shown below).

Packs	Brand	Total Items/Doses	Total Pack Price	Action
1	Abrysvo maternal vaccine for infant protection	1	£158.00	Edit Delete
1	Abrysvo vaccine for older adult protection	1	£158.00	Edit Delete

High-level ordering controls will be in place to reduce the risk of ordering errors only. These are not intended to restrict activity. Any further updates to ordering information will be published online as an ImmForm news article.

To minimise wastage due to fridge failures, please order no more than 2 weeks' worth of stock.

Details about the RSV vaccination programmes is published in the chapter 27a of the green book ([weblink 2](#)).

Further details about Abrysvo® vaccine can be found at [weblink 19](#).

Contact helpdesk@immform.org.uk for ordering queries.

Non routine vaccination supply

HEPATITIS A VACCINE

Adult

- **GSK:** supply of Havrix Adult PFS singles and packs of 10 are currently available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Avaxim PFS singles are currently available. Avaxim packs of 10 is currently unavailable
- **MSD:** VAQTA Adult is available

Paediatric

- **GSK:** supply of Havrix Paediatric singles and packs of 10 are currently available
- **MSD:** VAQTA Paediatric is available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Avaxim Junior singles are currently available

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

Adult

- **GSK:** Engerix B PFS singles and packs of 10 are currently available
- **GSK:** supply of Fendrix is currently available
- **MSD:** HBVAXPRO 10 micrograms is available
- **MSD:** HBVAXPRO 40 micrograms is available
- **Valneva:** PreHevbri is available

Paediatric

- **GSK:** supply of Engerix B Paediatric singles is currently available
- **MSD:** HBVAXPRO 5µg is available

COMBINED HEPATITIS A AND B VACCINE

- **GSK:** Twinrix Adult singles and packs of 10 are available
- **GSK:** Twinrix Paediatric is currently available
- **GSK:** Ambirix is available

COMBINED HEPATITIS A AND TYPHOID VACCINE

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Viatim is now a discontinued product and no longer available for sale

TYPHOID VACCINE

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Typhim singles and packs of 10 are available
- **Patientric:** Vivotif is available

RABIES VACCINE

- **Valneva:** Rabipur is expected to be available during w/c 8 July 24
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Verorab is currently out of stock

PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE (PPV):

- **MSD:** supply of Pneumovax 23 (PPV23) PFS is available

PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE CONJUGATE VACCINE (PCV):

- **Pfizer:** Prevenar 13 is currently available
- **MSD:** Vaxneuvance is currently available

VARICELLA ZOSTER VACCINE

- **GSK:** VARILRIX is currently available
- **MSD:** VARIVAX is available
- **MSD:** ZOSTAVAX is a discontinued product

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS (inactivated) VACCINE

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Revaxis is available

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS (ACELLULAR) AND POLIOMYELITIS (INACTIVATED) VACCINE

- **GSK:** supply of Boostrix-IPV is currently available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Repevax is currently available

MMR

- **MSD:** MMR Vaxpro is currently available
- **GSK:** Priorix is currently available

MENINGITIS ACWY VACCINE

- **GSK:** Menveo is currently available
- **Pfizer:** Nimenrix is currently available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** MenQuadfi is available

YELLOW FEVER

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Stamaril is available

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE

- **MSD:** GARDASIL has been discontinued
- **MSD:** Gardasil 9 is currently available
- **GSK:** Cervarix has been discontinued

CHOLERA VACCINE

- **Valneva:** Dukoral is available
- **Patientric:** Vaxchora is available

JAPANESE ENCEPHALYTIS VACCINE

- **Valneva:** Ixiaro is available

MENINGOCOCCAL GROUP B VACCINE

- **GSK:** Bexsero is currently available

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS, HIB VACCINE AND POLIOMYELITIS

- **GSK:** Infanrix IPV+Hib is currently available

HIB + MENINGOCOCCAL GROUP C COMBINED VACCINE

- **GSK:** Menitorix is currently available

LIVE ATTENUATED ROTAVIRUS VACCINE

- **GSK:** Rotarix is currently available

HERPES ZOSTER VACCINE

- **GSK:** Shingrix is currently available

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND PERTUSSIS

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** ADACEL® is available to order without restrictions

DENGUE TETRAVALENT VACCINE

- **GSK:** Qdenga is currently available

Weblinks

- Weblink 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rsv-immunisation-programme-jcvi-advice-7-june-2023>
- Weblink 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-the-green-book-chapter-27a>
- Weblink 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-minimum-standards-and-core-curriculum-for-immunisation-training-for-registered-healthcare-practitioners>
- Weblink 4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-vaccination-programme>
- Weblink 5 <https://khub.net/documents/135939561/1052259885/Respiratory+syncytial+virus+%28RSV%29+vaccination+programme+for+older+adults.pptx/7e3d8821-d068-ef4f-3820-a59c70bfe682>
- Weblink 6 <https://khub.net/documents/135939561/1052259885/Respiratory+syncytial+virus+%28RSV%29+vaccination+of+pregnant+women+for+infant+protection.pptx/d9847a8c-a2d3-cad2-6d62-5763fed5de9d>
- Weblink 7 <https://portal.immform.phe.gov.uk/Identity/Authentication/SignIn?ReturnUrl=%2FHome>
- Weblink 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storage-distribution-and-disposal-of-vaccines-the-green-book-chapter-3>
- Weblink 9 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-vaccination-programmes-letter/introduction-of-new-nhs-vaccination-programmes-against-respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>
- Weblink 10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-patient-group-direction-pgd>
- Weblink 11 <https://www.pfizerpro.co.uk/medicine/abrysvo/dosing/preparation>
- Weblink 12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-programme-information-for-healthcare-professionals/rsv-vaccination-of-older-adults-information-for-healthcare-practioners>
- Weblink 13 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-programme-information-for-healthcare-professionals/rsv-vaccination-of-pregnant-women-for-infant-protection-information-for-healthcare-practitioners>

Weblinks

- Weblink 14 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Srsvposterforolderadults>
- Weblink 15 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sguidetothersvvaccineforolderadults>
- Weblink 16 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Srsvposterforpregnantwomen>
- Weblink 17 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Saguidetot hersvvaccinationforpregnantwomenleaflet>
- Weblink 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-procedures-the-green-book-chapter-4>
- Weblink 19 <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/15309>
- Weblink 20 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-programme-information-for-healthcare-professionals>