



**Aboriginal  
Health Council  
of Western Australia**

# RSV vaccination with Abrysvo in pregnancy

## What parents and carers need to know

### What is RSV?

**RSV** (short for Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is a common cold sick virus that mostly affects babies and young kids, but can infect people of any age.

Most babies catch RSV in their first year of life and it is the **most common reason for kids under five years to need to stay in hospital**.

Aboriginal babies are at higher risk of becoming very sick with RSV, with **one in 20 babies needing hospitalisation for RSV in their first six months of life**.

Babies who get RSV can be at more risk of getting **asthma, wheezing, and allergies** as they grow up. RSV infections usually occur in the colder months, similar to the flu. In the northern parts of Western Australia it can occur all year.

### What is the Abrysvo RSV vaccine?

**Abrysvo is a vaccine (needle) that can be given to pregnant women to help protect their babies from RSV.**

When a pregnant mum gets Abrysvo, her body makes protective antibodies that pass to the baby through the placenta. This gives her baby protection from birth to six months old.



## Who can get Abrysvo for free in WA?

**Abrysvo is now free for all pregnant women in Australia.**

It can be given to pregnant women between 28 and 36 weeks of pregnancy or at least two weeks before her baby is born. Ideally Abrysvo should be given at least two weeks before giving birth to make sure the baby has protection against RSV.

If a pregnant woman misses out on getting Abrysvo before 36 weeks, she can still have the vaccine. Her baby might be able to get the infant RSV immunisation (Beyfortus) if they are born within two weeks of Mum being vaccinated.

## Is Abrysvo safe?

Yes, Abrysvo is safe for pregnant women and their baby. There is sometimes pain or a red lump where the needle was given, and you may feel more tired. Serious side effects are uncommon.

## Where is the Abrysvo vaccine available in WA?

Abrysvo is available at maternity hospitals, local health clinics including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, community health clinics, doctors (GP) clinics, and some pharmacies.

## Can Abrysvo be given at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes, it is safe for pregnant women to have Abrysvo at the same time as the other vaccines that are recommended in pregnancy, these include the pertussis vaccine to protect you from whooping cough, the influenza (flu) vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine.

## How long does the protection from Abrysvo last for the baby?

Abrysvo will protect babies from birth until six months old, if given to a pregnant woman more than two weeks before she gives birth.

## What more can I do to keep my baby safe from RSV?

- The best protection for your baby is by having the Abrysvo vaccination when you are 28 to 36 weeks pregnant.
- Keep small babies away from people who are sick.
- Family and friends should cover their coughs and sneezes and wash their hands regularly.
- Some babies and children are also eligible for RSV immunisation after birth. Ask your healthcare worker for more information.

**If you would like to know more,** ask your health worker or visit the HealthyWA website:  
[https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/articles/n\\_r/respiratory-syncytial-virus](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/articles/n_r/respiratory-syncytial-virus)



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