


**LTC/RH CoP (Huddle)
September 17,
2024**

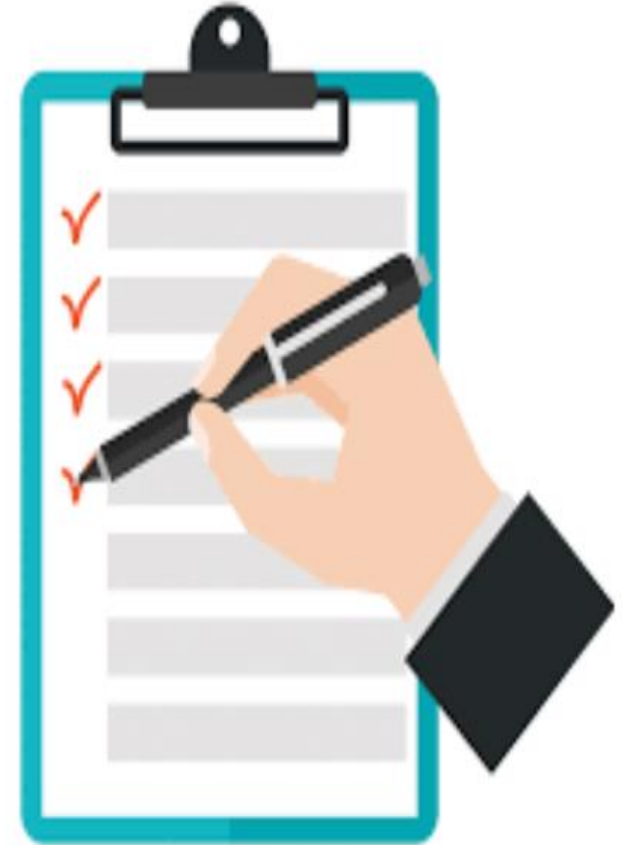


North Entrance

 **Humber River
Health**

Agenda

1. Overview of RSV prevention programs, vaccine and prophylactics
2. Older Adult RSV vaccine program
3. Infant and high risk children RSV prevention program, vaccine in pregnancy
4. Private purchase, pharmacy administration and co administration of RSV vaccine



Overview



High-Risk Populations

RSV prevention programs focus on protecting infants, young children, older adults, and individuals with underlying health conditions who are most vulnerable to severe RSV infections.



Long-Term Care Facilities and Retirement homes

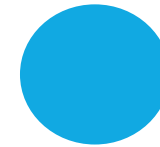
RSV prevention efforts target long-term care facilities and retirement homes, where older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems reside, to limit the spread of the virus.

The program includes ->60yrs Residents of long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, or retirement homes. As of Aug 14th



Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs)

RSV prevention measures are implemented in NICUs to safeguard premature infants and newborns with underlying medical conditions from contracting the virus.



Childcare Settings

RSV prevention strategies are employed in childcare facilities, such as daycare centers, to minimize the transmission of the virus among young children, who are at high risk of infection.

By focusing on the highest risk populations and settings, RSV prevention programs aim to reduce the burden of severe RSV infections and protect the most vulnerable individuals.

RSV Vaccines and Prophylactics

- RSV Vaccines

Administering RSV vaccines in the fall can help protect high-risk infants and older adults from developing severe RSV infections, which can lead to hospitalization and other complications.

- RSV Prophylactics

Providing RSV prophylactics, such as monoclonal antibodies, in the fall can help prevent RSV infections in high-risk infants and older adults, reducing the burden on the healthcare system.

- COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines

Administering COVID-19 and flu vaccines alongside RSV vaccines and prophylactics can offer comprehensive protection, safeguarding individual health, family and community well-being, and alleviating the strain on healthcare resources.



Older Adult High-Risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine Program

High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program

Program Introduction

Ontario introduced the high-risk older adult RSV vaccine program in 2023 to protect vulnerable populations from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Expanded Eligibility in 2024–25

The program will continue in 2024–25 with expanded eligibility to include more high-risk older adults in the province.

Target Population

The program targets older adults who are at high risk of severe illness and complications from RSV, such as those with underlying medical conditions or weakened immune systems.

Vaccine Availability

The RSV vaccine will be made available through healthcare providers and public health clinics across Ontario to eligible individuals.

Importance of Vaccination

Vaccination is crucial in protecting high-risk older adults from the potentially severe consequences of RSV infection, including hospitalization and even death.

Disease Burden



High Burden of RSV in Older Adults

Older adults, particularly those with existing comorbid conditions, are more susceptible to severe disease and have an increased risk of RSV-related hospitalization and mortality.



Severe Respiratory Illness

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a major cause of lower respiratory illness, particularly among infants, children, and older adults.



Hospitalization and Mortality Risk

Older adults with RSV infection have an increased risk of hospitalization and mortality compared to younger populations.

RSV poses a significant disease burden for older adults, particularly those with underlying health conditions, underscoring the need for effective preventive strategies to reduce the impact of this respiratory virus.

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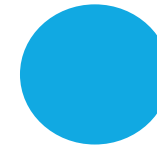
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Table 1. Authorized RSV Vaccine Products.

Vaccine	Arexvy	Abrysvo™
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Pfizer
Date of Authorization (Health Canada)	August 4, 2023	December 21, 2023
Type of Vaccine	Adjuvanted recombinant protein subunit	Bivalent recombinant protein subunit
Dosage	1 dose (0.5 mL)	1 dose (0.5 mL)
Route of Administration	Intramuscular (into the muscle, usually in the arm)	Intramuscular (into the muscle, usually in the arm)
Number of Doses (how often)	One dose*	One dose*

Dose Recommendations

- **Single Dose Recommendation**

Evidence supports the use of a single dose of either Arexvy or Abrysvo to help prevent RSV disease in adults 60 years of age and older.

- **Multi-Year Protection**

Studies show that the single dose of Arexvy or Abrysvo provides multi-year protection against RSV disease in older adults.

Eligibility



Long-term care home residents, Elder care lodges or Retirement homes

Individuals living in congregate living settings are considered high-risk and eligible for the RSV prevention program.



Dialysis patients , ALC patient, organ or stem cell transplant

Patients receiving dialysis treatment are also eligible for the RSV prevention program due to their compromised immune system. Patients receiving alternate level of care



First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals, the homeless

The program specifically targets individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis, as they may face higher risks and barriers to accessing healthcare

The RSV prevention program aims to protect high-risk individuals, including those in long-term care, on dialysis, and from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, by providing targeted access to RSV prevention measures.

Contraindications and Precautions



Severe Allergic Reaction

Individuals with a history of severe allergic reactions, such as anaphylaxis, should exercise caution when considering the RSV vaccine as it may trigger a similar response



Severe Acute Illness

Those experiencing a severe acute illness, such as a high fever, should postpone receiving the RSV vaccine until their condition has improved

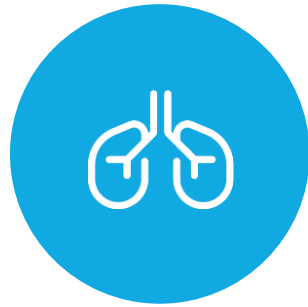


Previous RSV Infection

Individuals who have previously been infected with RSV should consult with their healthcare provider before receiving the vaccine, as the immune response may be different

It is important for older adults with a history of severe allergic reactions, severe acute illness, or previous RSV infection to discuss the potential risks and benefits of the RSV vaccine with their healthcare provider before receiving the vaccination.

Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)



Report severe reactions

Vaccine recipients should be advised to report any severe reactions to their health care provider or the nearest emergency department.



Health care provider reporting

Health care providers are required to report Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) to their local public health unit.

It is crucial for vaccine recipients and healthcare providers to be vigilant in reporting any severe adverse events following immunization to ensure proactive monitoring and appropriate response by public health authorities.

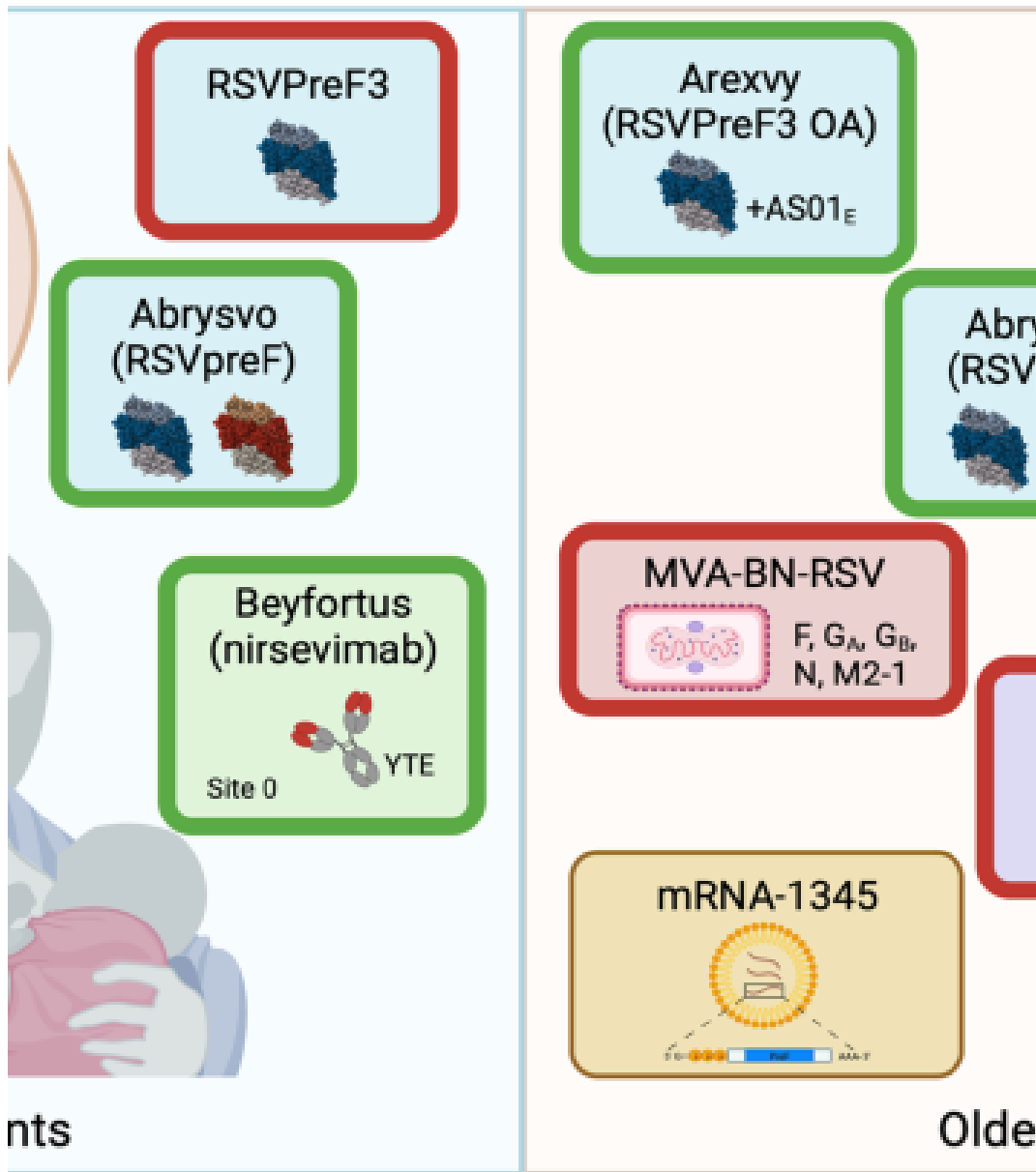
Storage and Handling

Vaccine Product	Storage and Handling Requirements
Arexvy	Store frozen at -50°C to -15°C (-58°F to 5°F). Reconstitute with 0.6 mL of sterile water for injection immediately before use. Administer within 6 hours of reconstitution.
Abrysvo	Store frozen at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F). Reconstitute with 0.5 mL of sterile water for injection immediately before use. Administer within 6 hours of reconstitution.



RSV Prevention Programs

An overview of initiatives and strategies aimed at reducing the burden of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections, a leading cause of severe respiratory illness in infants and young children.



Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Prevention Program

Ontario has expanded its high-risk infant RSV prevention program to include all infants and high-risk children up to 24 months of age starting in the 2024-25 season. This program aims to protect these vulnerable groups from the potentially severe effects of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection.

Eligibility Criteria



Residency in Ontario

Beyfortus® is currently funded for RSV prophylaxis in infants who are residents of the province of Ontario, Canada.



Specific Eligibility Criteria

Born in 2024 prior to the RSV season. NACI recommends 8 months of age or less to be immunized



Age Requirement

Born in 2024 during the RSV season. Which is usually November to April



Medical Conditions

Children up to 24 months of age with CHD, CLD, severe immunodeficiency, down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, severe congenital airway anomaly

The eligibility criteria for Beyfortus® funding and RSV prophylaxis in Ontario are specific and will determine which infants can receive this important preventive treatment.

Current Eligibility

Eligible Groups	Eligibility Criteria
Infants and young children under 24 months of age	Infants and children under 24 months of age who have a high-risk medical condition, such as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, or prematurity (born before 32 weeks gestation)
Elderly individuals 60 years of age and older	Elderly individuals 60 years of age and older who have a high-risk medical condition, such as chronic heart or lung disease, immunodeficiency, or other underlying medical conditions

Vaccination in Pregnancy

The Ontario Ministry of Health is making the RSV vaccine, Abrysvo®, available to pregnant residents of Ontario who are between 32 and 36 weeks gestational age and are expected to deliver near the start of or during the 2024–25 RSV season. This vaccine is being provided as part of the province's efforts to prevent the spread of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) among vulnerable populations.



Access to Publicly Funded RSV Vaccines



Order vaccines from local public health unit

Health care providers should order publicly funded RSV vaccines from their local public health unit or regional public health authority



Order directly from OGPMSS

Alternatively, health care providers can order publicly funded RSV vaccines directly from the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Services (OGPMSS).

By ordering RSV vaccines from the appropriate channels, health care providers can ensure their patients have access to publicly funded prevention programs.

Private Purchase Of RSV Vaccines

Eligibility

People aged 60 years and older who do not qualify for the free RSV vaccine can purchase the vaccine privately.

Prescription Requirement

The vaccine can be purchased with a prescription from the individual's family doctor or other primary care provider.

Vaccine Availability

The RSV vaccine is available for private purchase through pharmacies, clinics, or other healthcare providers.

Cost Considerations

The cost of the vaccine may vary depending on the healthcare provider, insurance coverage, and location.

Importance of Vaccination

Private purchase of the RSV vaccine can help protect older adults who are not eligible for the free program, reducing the risk of severe illness and hospitalization.

Pharmacy Administration

Pharmacists Certified for RSV Vaccine Administration

Pharmacy Technicians Trained for RSV Vaccine Delivery

Pharmacies Equipped with RSV Vaccine Supply

Patients Receiving RSV Vaccine at Pharmacies

Co-Administration



Co-administration of RSV vaccine with other seasonal vaccines

The RSV vaccine can be given alongside other seasonal vaccines, such as the flu shot, to provide comprehensive protection during the respiratory season.



Encourage co-administration to mitigate respiratory season impacts

Co-administration of the RSV vaccine with other seasonal vaccines is encouraged to help reduce the overall burden on the healthcare system and individuals during the respiratory season.



Convenience and efficiency for healthcare providers and patients

Co-administration allows convenience and efficiency for both providers and patients.

Co-administration of the RSV vaccine with other seasonal vaccines is a recommended strategy to provide comprehensive protection and mitigate the impacts of the respiratory season.

Resources And References

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- High-Risk Older Adult RSV Fact sheet for health care providers
- Infant RSV Guidance for Health Care Providers – Beyfortus
- Infant RSV Guidance for Health Care Providers – Abrysvo -
- Older Adult High-Risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine Program Fact Sheet – Vaccine Recipients -

Q&A





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