



# 2026 WA RSV immunisation program

## Arexvy vaccine fact sheet for providers

### About RSV

In adults, the risk of severe respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus (RSV) illness is highest in people aged 75 years and over, Aboriginal adults and people with certain medical conditions.

Symptoms of RSV infection are often mild and like other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza. However, RSV is a more frequent cause of wheezing, earache and sinus pain compared to other respiratory viruses. People with RSV can get worse quickly and develop bronchiolitis and pneumonia.

### Eligibility of older adults for government-funded RSV vaccine

In 2026, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and WA RSV vulnerable older adult (VOA) Vaccination Program commence on 15 May. Eligibility for free Arexvy vaccine is as follows:

- aged 75 years and over
- aged 60 years and over and are Aboriginal
- aged 60 to 74 and
  - living in a residential aged care home
  - receiving Commonwealth Support at Home\*
  - living in specialist disability accommodation (SDA)\*\*
  - in residential mental health services
  - experiencing homelessness
  - in a correctional facility
- aged 50 to 59 meeting one of the above criteria and
  - are Aboriginal, or
  - have a [risk factor](#) for severe RSV disease.

\*Excludes persons on Support at Home waitlist and those on Commonwealth Home Support Package (CHSP)

\*\*Excludes persons on SDA waitlist or receiving supported independent living (SIL)

### Who should not receive Arexvy

Arexvy is only registered for use in adults aged  $\geq 60$  years and adults 50 to 59 years who are at increased risk for RSV disease. Pregnant women and children should not be given Arexvy.

### Effectiveness of Arexvy vaccine

In a large clinical trial, adults aged  $\geq 60$  years who received Arexvy were 83 per cent less likely to have RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease and 94 per cent less likely to have severe RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease during the first RSV season after vaccination.

### Administration and co-administration

Arexvy is given as an intramuscular (IM) injection into the deltoid. Arexvy can be co-administered with other routine vaccines, such as pneumococcal, influenza and zoster. The best time to vaccinate is in May, before the onset of RSV season in most of Western Australia.

### Contraindications

The only absolute contraindications to RSV vaccines are:

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

Arexvy is not registered for use in pregnant women and should not be given to pregnant women.

### Possible side effects

Common side effects that can occur after Arexvy vaccination are:

- pain, redness or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- muscle pains
- headache.

These symptoms usually begin soon after vaccination and are mild and short-lived. Severe side effects after Arexvy are uncommon.

## Reporting suspected adverse events

WA Health conducts ongoing safety monitoring for all immunisations, including Arexvy, through the WA Vaccine Safety Surveillance System (WAVSS), the central service for reporting significant adverse events following immunisation. If you suspect a serious side effect after immunisation, report it:

- online at [SAFEVAC](#) or
- call WAVSS on 6456 0208 (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday).

## Training requirements

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

## Reporting to Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

As per the [AIR Act](#) 2015, it is mandatory to report vaccinations provided through NIP and state-funded programs to the AIR. Reporting state-funded vaccinations to the AIR is a condition of holding a OneLink Australia vaccine order account.

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

## Vaccine ordering and management

To order government funded vaccines, providers must have a Onelink Australia account and keep their email details up to date to receive WA Health updates on the program and product availability.

Arexvy storage requirements are the same as other NIP vaccines:

- Store at +2°C to +8°C.
- Do not freeze.
- Protect from light

All WA Immunisation Service Providers and stakeholders responsible for the transport, storage and/or use of government funded vaccines should adhere to the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5](#), [WA Health Cold Chain Management resources](#) and complete the [Cold Chain Management Training Module](#).

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## Additional resources

WA Health updates this information regularly. Check the resources below to make sure you have the latest RSV immunisation advice.

- Subscribe to WA Health [Vaccine Updates](#) e-newsletter
- [RSV immunisation](#) – provider website and resources (WA Health)
- [RSV – statutory notification alert](#) (WA Health)
- [NCIRS - RSV FAQs](#)
- [RSV immunisation](#) – consumer website (HealthyWA)