

Infant RSV Protection

Supporting Conversations with Patients This Season



RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization among infants and can lead to severe respiratory illness.^{1,2} As a healthcare provider, you play a key role in helping families understand RSV risks and available protection options, so they can make informed choices.

Protecting Infants Starts with Early Conversations

Start conversations and planning for RSV protection early.

- The **infant immunization** is best administered shortly after birth, during the RSV season (or at the start of RSV season if born earlier) to support optimal protection.³
- The **maternal vaccination** is limited to a specific window in pregnancy (32-36 weeks of gestation), during RSV season.

NACI recommends both the infant immunization and the maternal RSV vaccine as effective methods to reduce infant RSV hospitalizations.

The current NACI statement notes:

"At this time, nirsevimab is the preferred immunization option based on its efficacy, duration of protection, and good safety profile. This preference will be revisited as needed based on emerging evidence. However, if nirsevimab is not available, other options can be considered."

Current NACI-recommended Infant RSV Protections Available

	Infant Immunization (nirsevimab)	Maternal Vaccine (RSVpreF)
Product Name	Beyfortus	ABRYSVO
Who is it for?	All healthy infants entering their first RSV season. Infants up to 24 months old with a high risk of severe RSV.	Pregnant individuals
Recommended dose timing	Shortly after birth, if born during RSV season, or at the start of RSV season if born earlier.	During RSV season, between 32-36 weeks gestation
Effectiveness	The infant immunization is an effective way to reduce hospitalizations from RSV (NACI recommendation). When given at birth, it provides strong protection during the critical first months of life, when infants are most vulnerable to severe RSV illness.	The maternal RSV vaccine is an effective method to reduce infant RSV hospitalization (NACI recommendation). It offers the greatest protection during the first months of life, when infants are most at risk, if born during RSV season.
Type	Monoclonal antibody	Protein-based vaccine
Approved by Health Canada	Apr 1, 2023	Dec 1, 2023
Available in Canada since	Nov 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2024

Visit our RSV Healthcare Provider Information Hub to learn more.

praxushealth.ca/rsv-provider



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Navigating Ontario's Infant RSV Program

Ontario is publicly funding both RSV protection options. The infant RSV program has expanded to include all infants born before and during the RSV season, as well as high-risk infants up to 24 months in age. Infants born outside of the RSV season and/or outside hospitals will be offered the infant immunization in primary care or local public health units.



Praxus Health has gathered trusted resources to help patients and healthcare providers learn about RSV and explore available protection options across Ontario.



Patient Resources

Patient-friendly, culturally sensitive resources in multiple languages to guide families through RSV protection.

praxushealth.ca/rsv-parent



Healthcare Provider Resources

Practical resources to support RSV conversations and patient care—helping you share trusted information and guide eligible patients to protection options.

praxushealth.ca/rsv-provider



References:

1. [American Lung Association - RSV is the Leading Cause of Hospitalization in Babies; How To Protect Your Baby This Winter](#)
2. [CDC- About RSV](#)
3. [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide](#)
4. [Vaccines in Pregnancy - RSV Vaccine](#)