

Queensland Health

Enquiries to: Scott Brown

Director

Immunisation Unit Communicable

Diseases Branch

Telephone:

Dr Nick Yim President Australian Medical Association - Queensland PO BOX 125 KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

Email: amaq@amaq.com.au

Dear Dr Yim

The Australian Government recently announced that the maternal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine (Abrysvo) will be made available as part of the National Immunisation Program (NIP) ahead of winter 2025.

Following the success of Queensland's infant RSV immunisation program, which utilises the monoclonal antibody product nirsevimab, and the recent Australian Government's announcement, Queensland will introduce the maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) from 1 December 2024. This expanded approach, commencing ahead of the NIP listing of Abrysvo, will further protect the state's newborn infants and young children against serious RSV disease.

From 1 December 2024, the Abrysvo vaccine can be offered to all pregnant people living in Queensland between 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy. When administered in pregnancy, the vaccine provides protection to newborn infants against severe RSV from birth for up to 6 months. State-funded Abrysvo is not for use with non-pregnant people. Further information on Abrysvo is available in the online edition of the <u>Australian Immunisation Handbook</u>.

Vaccine service providers will be able to order this vaccine from the Queensland Health Immunisation Program (QHIP) from Monday 25 November 2024 as part of their routine vaccine orders.

Nirsevimab will continue to be available to order for infants that are not protected by maternal RSV vaccine in utero, or where they are recommended to receive nirsevimab as outlined in the <u>Australian Immunisation Handbook</u>. An updated version of the <u>Queensland's nirsevimab clinical guidance and resources</u> will be made available from 25 November 2024.

I request your support in disseminating this information to the relevant members within your network. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to our close partnership to ensure the ongoing successful implementation of this important disease prevention program. If you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Scott Brown, Director, Immunisation Unit, Department of Health, via email at

Yours sincerely

Nick Steele

Deputy Director-General

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