



ADULT VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Adults 60 Years and Older

Introduction

Two respiratory syncytial virus vaccines are approved for adults 60 years and older in the United States: RSVPreF3 (Arexvy) and RSVpreF (Abrysvo™).¹ Evidence suggests that RSV incidence increases as patients age, and therefore, a patient's age may be considered when determining the risk for severe RSV disease. Both vaccines are single-dose vaccines and appear to provide some protection for at least two RSV seasons.

Recommendation

The American Academy of Family Physicians recommends that adults 60 years and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine using shared clinical decision-making. SCDM means that patients and their family physicians should discuss whether RSV vaccination will be beneficial based on conversations about the patient's health status, risk of severe RSV disease, clinical judgment, patient preference and the safety of the RSV vaccines.

Contraindication and Precaution

Respiratory syncytial virus prefusion F3 vaccine or RSVPreF3 (Arexvy) *should not* be administered to a person with a history of a severe allergic reaction to any vaccine component (e.g., anaphylaxis). The manufacturer's insert contains additional information about Arexvy.

Respiratory syncytial virus prefusion F protein vaccine or RSVpreF (Abrysvo™) *should not* be administered to a person with a history of a severe allergic reaction to any vaccine component (e.g., anaphylaxis). The manufacturer's insert contains additional information about Abrysvo.

Adults with a minor acute illness, such as a cold, can receive RSV vaccination. Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever is a *precaution* to vaccinate, and vaccination should be deferred until the patient recovers.

Timing

For the 2023-24 season, clinicians should offer RSV vaccination as early as the vaccine supply becomes available, with vaccination preferably occurring before the onset of the fall and winter seasons.

Administration

RSV vaccines are single-dose vaccines and should be administered intramuscularly. The desired site of administration is the deltoid region of the upper arm. Please do not administer the RSV vaccine intravenously, intradermally or subcutaneously.

Co-administration with Other Vaccines

It is acceptable to co-administrate the RSV vaccines with other adult vaccines during the same visit. When determining the co-administration of other vaccines with an RSV vaccine, please consider:

- Whether the patient is currently up to date with their recommended vaccines
- Feasibility of the patient returning for additional vaccines
- Risk of acquiring a vaccine-preventable disease
- Vaccine reactogenicity profiles
- Patient preferences

Consideration

Serious neurologic conditions, which include Guillain-Barré syndrome, have been reported after RSV vaccination in clinical trials. It is unclear, however, if the RSV vaccine caused these events.¹

Medical Conditions Associated with Increased Risk for Severe RSV Disease^{1,2}

- Chronic lung disease (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma)
- Chronic cardiovascular disease (e.g., congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease)
- Chronic or progressive neurological or neuromuscular conditions
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Moderate or severe immunocompromised
- Chronic hematologic disorders
- Any underlying condition for which a clinician determines might increase the risk of severe RSV disease

Other Factors Linked to Increased Risk for Severe RSV Disease^{1,2}

- Frailty or advanced age as determined by a family physician or health care professional
- Residence in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Any underlying factor a clinician determines might increase the risk of severe RSV disease

More information about vaccine storage and handling, safety, efficacy and other details are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [here](#).

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthcare providers: RSV vaccination for adults 60 years of age and over. Accessed November 21, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/hcp/older-adults.html>
2. CDC. Shared clinical decision-making (SCDM). RSV vaccination for adults 60 years and older. Accessed November 21, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/downloads/provider-job-aid-for-older-adults-508.pdf>