Health PEI

Fact Sheet

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Abrysvo® Vaccine: Adults

1. What is RSV disease and what are the complications of this disease?

RSV is a common viral illness. In Canada, elevated RSV activity generally takes place from late fall to early spring. Primary infection with RSV can present as upper respiratory tract illness, lower respiratory tract disease, pneumonia, bronchiolitis, or tracheobronchitis. Reinfection with RSV can recur throughout life and repeat infections are often less severe. In severe cases, RSV requires hospitalization and may be life-threatening. In adults, hospitalization is highest in older adults and those with certain chronic medical conditions.

2. What are the contents of the vaccine?

The vaccine works by helping the body to make antibodies (substances your body uses to fight an infection) which protect against the disease.

Medicinal ingredients:

- Lyophilized RSV stabilized prefusion F protein

Non-medicinal ingredients:

- Mannitol
- polysorbate 8
- sodium chloride
- sucrose
- tromethamine
- trometamol hydrochloride
- Sterile Water for injection

3. How is the vaccine given:

Individuals 18 years of age and older receive a 0.5 mL IM injection into the arm.

4. What are the possible reactions from this vaccine and how are they managed?

The most common side effects occur within 24-48 hours after the injection and include swelling, redness, and tenderness at the site of injection. Pain, headache, muscle and joint pain may also occur. Other side effects can occasionally occur after immunization - if you experience any side effects not listed above, or you have questions or concerns speak to your healthcare professional.

It is not necessary to give acetaminophen with every immunization. If a person experiences discomfort or fever after receiving the vaccine, acetaminophen can relieve these symptoms.

The most serious but rare side effect is a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) which can be life threatening, and which usually occurs within 15-20 minutes of receiving the vaccine. Procedures are in place for the nurse to quickly respond to anaphylaxis by administering epinephrine.

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Please remain in the waiting room for 15 minutes after immunization. See a doctor or seek medical attention if any serious side effect occurs. Report any serious reaction to the Public Health Nurse.

5. Who should receive this vaccine?

- The following individuals will be offered vaccination as part of PEI's publicly funded program:
    - All adults 75 years and older
    - Persons 18 years of age and older and residents of Long Term Care (LTC) or Community Care (CC)
    - Persons 18 years of age and older currently in hospital and awaiting LTC or CC placement.
    - Persons 60 years and older who have been diagnosed with a clinically significant respiratory health condition.
        - Pulmonary disorders including COPD
        - Lung Cancer
    - Persons 65-74 years of age at increased risk of severe RSV disease
        - Cardiac disorders
        - Diabetes mellitus and other metabolic conditions
        - Moderate and severe immunodeficiency (refer to the list of immunocompromising conditions developed for COVID-19)
        - Chronic renal disease
        - Chronic liver disease
        - Neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions
        - Class 3 obesity (BMI of 40kg/m2 and over)
    - Persons 18 years of age and older who have been diagnosed with a clinically significant chronic health condition(s)
        - Lung Transplant
        - Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant in the past 2 years or who remain on immunosuppression
        - Are on home oxygen or require chronic oxygen therapy
        - Receiving dialysis

RSV vaccine may be considered as an individual decision by adults 60 to 74 years of age in consultation with their health care provider and can purchase RSV vaccine at their local community pharmacy.

6. Who should not receive this vaccine?

You should not receive this vaccine if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to the active substances or to any of the other ingredients.