

# Rapid HTA of immunisation against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in Ireland

## What has HIQA done?

We have published a rapid health technology assessment (HTA) of immunisation against RSV in Ireland. In particular, our assessment looked at the one-year costs for the HSE of different immunisation strategies for infants aged less than one year and for adults aged 65 and older for the 2025-2026 RSV season.



## What did we find?

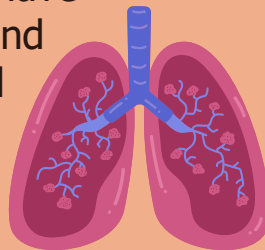
- The estimated one-year cost of immunising infants for their first RSV season ranged from €3.9 to €19 million depending on the strategy used, and would be partially offset by fewer hospitalisations.
- The estimated one-year cost of immunising everyone aged 65+ years was €146 million, or over €76 million if only offered to those aged 75+ years.
- Data collection will be important to support the ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of any programme that is implemented.



## What is RSV?

RSV is a highly contagious virus that infects the lungs and upper airways and is transmitted by coughing, sneezing or breathing. For most people, RSV can be managed without seeing a doctor. However, RSV can cause more severe infections that can lead to hospitalisation.

Since 2022, new medicinal products have become available to protect infants and older adults against RSV, with clinical trial data and emerging real-world evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of these products.



## How will this report be used?

This rapid HTA has been submitted as advice to the Minister for Health and the HSE to inform an interim policy decision on the most appropriate RSV immunisation strategy for the 2025-2026 RSV season.



## What is next?

HIQA will now conduct a larger assessment to provide advice to inform a longer-term policy decision on RSV immunisation. This will include emerging international evidence, and experience from the HSE's RSV Immunisation Pathfinder Programme, which is being piloted for the 2024-2025 RSV season.

