What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a contagious respiratory virus[1] and can cause severe infection in older adults and may lead to hospitalisation.[2-4] RSV infections are most common in autumn and winter, but cases occur all year round.[5-7] RSV can be spread through:[1,8]

- A person touching their face after having contact with a contaminated surface
- Coughs or sneezes from infected people
- Direct contact with infected people.

People can get RSV multiple times throughout their lives.[1,8,9]

Who is at risk?

In some cases, RSV infection can be severe in older adults.[2-4,10] Being an older adult can mean a higher rate of severe complications due to RSV compared with younger adults, even if you consider yourself healthy.[2-4] Your **age** and any **chronic medical conditions** are significant factors when considering your risk of RSV infection.[2-4,11] Certain underlying conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma or congestive heart failure (CHF) can put older adults at greater risk for serious complications compared with those without the condition.[4,11,12]

What are the symptoms of RSV?

Symptoms of RSV in adults can range from mild to severe and can last up to 2 weeks.[1] RSV symptoms in adults may include:[1,3,8]

- Nasal congestion, runny nose
- Cough, sore throat
- Shortness of breath and wheezing
- Tiredness, body aches
- Fever, headache

If you experience any of these symptoms, it is important to see your healthcare professional.

What are possible complications of RSV?

RSV can severely impact older adults, including those with certain underlying chronic conditions.[2-4,11] RSV can cause severe infection in older adults and may lead to hospitalisation.[2-4] In older adults, RSV infection is associated with exacerbations of COPD and CHF.[3,13-16]

Why am I being given AREXVY?[17]

AREXVY is a vaccine that helps to protect adults over the age of 60 against RSV-associated illness. AREXVY is a vaccine that contains the active ingredient Recombinant Respiratory Syncytial Virus pre-fusion F protein (RSVPreF3). It is mixed with an adjuvant suspension to form the vaccine that you will receive. The adjuvant is used to improve the body's response to the vaccine.

Before receiving AREXVY, what do I need to know?[17]

Do not use AREXVY if you are allergic to the vaccine, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the AREXVY Consumer Medicine Information leaflet.

Tell your doctor if you:

- Have any other medical conditions.
- Have lowered immunity.
- Have a bleeding problem or bruise easily.
- Take any medicines for any other condition.
- Currently have a severe infection with a high temperature.

Your doctor or nurse may decide to delay vaccination with AREXVY until the illness has passed. A minor infection such as a cold is not usually a reason to delay vaccination but talk to your doctor about this before being vaccinated. If you are unwell and cannot receive AREXVY, talk to your doctor or nurse about when you can receive it.

Are there any side effects?[17]

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

Less serious side effects with AREXVY include:

- Itching or pain at the injection site
- Redness and swelling at the injection site
- Fever, chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Joint pain, muscle pain
- Runny nose
- Generally feeling unwell
- Nausea, stomach pain
- Swelling of the lymph nodes

Speak to your doctor if you have any of these side effects and they worry you.

Allergic reactions to AREXVY are rare. Severe reactions will usually occur within the first few hours of vaccination.

Signs of an allergic reaction include:

- swelling of the limbs, face, eyes, inside of the nose, mouth or throat
- shortness of breath, breathing or swallowing difficulties