



29 May 2024

Professor Robyn Ward
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
Department of Health and Ageing
GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601
Email: pbac@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Ward,

Re: Arexvy® Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine application for new NIP listing

This submission is made on behalf of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). ASCIA is the peak professional body of clinical immunology/allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand.

We write in support of the following application which is on the July 2024 meeting agenda for consideration by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC):

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) recombinant subunit vaccine

Arexvy® - GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd

Powder and suspension for injection (0.5 mL)

Clinical indication: Prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV

Application: To request a listing on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for prevention of RSV in patients aged 60 years and over

ASCIA supports this application for the following reasons:

- Arexvy® is the first RSV vaccine which has been approved in Australia by the TGA for people 60 years and older for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV. Arexvy® is a recombinant subunit vaccine, which does not contain live virus, and is therefore recommended for immunocompromised patients, which includes many people aged 60 years and older.
- RSV is a common and contagious respiratory virus that can cause cold and flu like symptoms in children and adults. Whilst in some cases RSV may be a mild infection, RSV can also cause serious illness and in rare cases, even death, in older adults.
- Older adults who are immunocompromised and/or have chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and congestive heart failure have a greater risk of being hospitalised from RSV compared with those without these conditions.

We hope that the PBAC will take into account the reasons listed above, in support of the application for listing of Arexvy® on the NIP.

Please email jill@allergy.org.au if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A/Professor Theresa Cole
ASCIA President

Jill Smith
ASCIA CEO