



Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

Summary of the 110th meeting, 20 and 21 February 2025

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- ATAGI was pleased to note that a maternal RSV vaccine is now free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for administration from 28 weeks of pregnancy to protect newborn babies from RSV. Nirsevimab, a long-acting monoclonal antibody, is available free for eligible infants through state and territory funded programs. Together, these immunisation products will help protect newborn babies from RSV.
- ATAGI received a presentation on the RSV prevention program in Queensland. The use of nirsevimab has reduced the rate of RSV notification and hospitalisation in infants aged under 6 months. ATAGI considered these data to be very encouraging for the RSV prevention program.
- The [clinical guidance on RSV immunisation product administration errors](#) has been published. This guidance provides advice on the management of a range of possible administration errors, including when a repeat dose is needed.
 - ATAGI reviewed and endorsed the final outcomes of the model that was developed to help inform decisions about the optimal RSV prevention program for Australia.
- ATAGI endorsed a GRADE assessment of RSV vaccine in adults aged 50 to 59 years with medical risk factors for severe RSV disease.

Pertussis (whooping cough)

- ATAGI reviewed data on the continuing high notification rates of pertussis in Australia.
- ATAGI emphasised the importance of every dose in the routine vaccination schedule to protect against pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis vaccines are available for free under the NIP for people aged 2, 4, 6 and 18 months, 4 years and 12–13 years. A pertussis vaccine is also free in every pregnancy - this is an important way to protect newborns from pertussis, noting they are at highest risk of severe disease from whooping cough.
- ATAGI reviewed the terms of reference for a review of pertussis, which will be conducted throughout 2025. These will be endorsed out of session.

Influenza

- ATAGI endorsed its statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2025, which will be published on the [Health website](#). Related updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook (the Handbook) will also be published on the [Handbook website](#).

Pneumococcal disease

- ATAGI reviewed data on the pneumococcal vaccination schedule across the life course, with consideration of available vaccines and recent epidemiology of pneumococcal disease.

Japanese encephalitis (JE)

- ATAGI received a presentation on the outcomes of a clinical trial that compared intradermal and subcutaneous administration of JE vaccines. The results suggest that both routes of administration achieve similar immunogenicity outcomes.
- ATAGI reviewed data on JE epidemiology, vaccination coverage and duration of immunity after vaccination. These data will inform a future update to the [Handbook chapter on JE](#).

Other ATAGI business

- ATAGI held a joint meeting with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA). ATAGI and the CDNA acknowledge the benefits of ongoing communication and engagement on mutual key issues on the prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases. These joint sessions will be held regularly to enhance existing connections between the two committees.
- ATAGI reviewed data on immunisation coverage and noted the continuing decrease in coverage rates for childhood immunisation. ATAGI emphasised the importance of receiving every dose in the childhood schedule on time to protect young children against serious diseases.
 - ATAGI received an update from the department on a range of projects that are underway to reform the NIP.
- ATAGI reviewed its draft advice to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for several upcoming immunisation products.

Department and committee updates

- ATAGI received updates from:
- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on vaccines that are currently under evaluation for [registration in Australia](#).
- The CDNA on notifications of vaccine-preventable diseases in Australia and overseas.
- The PBAC's upcoming consideration of vaccines for inclusion on the NIP.
- The department on the development of a governance framework for mathematical modelling that is used as needed to support ATAGI's work.

Resources

- ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and declaration of interest information is available on the [Department of Health and Aged Care website](#).