Health technology assessment on immunisation against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in Ireland.

Public Consultation feedback form

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is holding a six-week public consultation to give people an opportunity to provide feedback on the health technology assessment on immunisation against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in Ireland.

Your views are important to us. HIQA will carefully assess all feedback received and incorporate it into the report, where appropriate.

The final assessment and a statement of outcomes report (a summary of the consultation responses) will be published on HIQA's website once the HTA has been completed.

The closing date for the public consultation is 5 pm on Tuesday, 20 January 2026.

How to provide feedback:

- If you are commenting in a personal capacity, there is no need to provide your name or any other personal information.
- If you are commenting on behalf of an organisation, please combine all feedback from your organisation into one submission form. We will request a name and contact number for a designated representative from your organisation in case we need to clarify your feedback.
- If your feedback contains any commercially sensitive or confidential information, please highlight this at the time of submission, so it can be excluded from the summary of feedback that will be published by HIQA.
- Please spell out any abbreviations that you use.

You can **email** the completed form to consultation@hiqa.ie

OR

Print the consultation feedback form and **post** the completed form to:

Health Information and Quality Authority
Public consultation on health technology assessment on immunisation against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in Ireland
Dublin Regional Office
George's Court,
George's Lane,
Smithfield,
Dublin 7,
D07 E98Y

Data protection and Freedom of Information

HIQA will only collect personal information, such as the names of individuals who provided feedback or any other personal details during this consultation, for the purposes of seeking clarification on your feedback, if necessary. No personal information will be included in the stakeholder consultation document that will be published by HIQA.

Any response you provide will be held securely and anonymised. Information provided in your response, for example, an anecdote or statement about an experience, may be included in the statement of outcomes that will be published by HIQA at the end of the HTA process. However, information will be provided in a manner which protects the privacy of respondents. All personal information will be deleted once no longer needed, in line with HIQA's record retention policy.

For further information on how HIQA uses personal information, please see our Privacy Notice available here. If you have any concerns regarding your personal information, please contact HIQA's Data Protection Officer at dpo@hiqa.ie.

Please note that HIQA is subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and the statutory Code of Practice in relation to FOI. We cannot give you an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances due to the requirements of the FOI Act.

☒ **I agree to take part in the public consultation**

1. About you

1.1 Are you providing feedback as:

☐ an individual

☒ on behalf of an organisation

1.2 If answer is 'on behalf of an organisation', please give the name of the organisation:

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI)- the Pharmacy Regulator

If applicable, for clarification purposes, please provide your name, your role in the above organisation and your contact details:

Ursula Feeney, Pharmacy Practice Officer

ursula.feeney@psi.ie

2. Your feedback on the draft health technology assessment

As the independent statutory regulator of pharmacists and pharmacies in Ireland, we welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

PSI are supportive of the World Health Organisation recommendations for all countries to introduce products to prevent severe RSV disease in young infants. PSI are also supportive of the NIAC recommendations for the immunisation of infants and older adults against RSV. We recognise the positive impact that the Pathfinder Programme has had in significantly reducing the burden of RSV among the infant cohort, and we note the potential challenges that may arise should this programme be discontinued. However, we also acknowledge the issue of cost effectiveness and agree that the positive impact of providing RSV immunisation for infants and older adults should be balanced with the most efficient and equitable use of healthcare resources in Ireland where possible.

In the event that an RSV immunisation programme is introduced for infants and older adults in Ireland on a more permanent basis, PSI would strongly support the inclusion of pharmacists as key participants in the programme. PSI would be happy to support the involvement of pharmacists in any national RSV programme, as relevant to its role and remit.

2.1 Please provide any general or specific feedback you have on the draft assessment. Where applicable, please specify the section to which you are referring.

We note that Section 7.3.3 of the report 'Training' states that for pharmacists to provide RSV vaccination as part of a nationally-funded programme, the vaccines would need to be included within Schedule 8 of the legislation in a similar manner to the other vaccines currently administered by pharmacists.

We consider that this section should be updated to reflect the introduction of the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Suppy)(Amendment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 353 of 2025), which added Nirsevimab to the Twelfth Schedule to these Regulations. Regulation 4F of the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 540 of 2003)(as amended) enables registered pharmacists, as well as other health professionals, to admister vaccines listed in the Twelfth schedule, in accordance with a national vaccination programme, coordinated, overseen and implemented by the HSE.

In addition, we would suggest that the wording of this paragraph is updated to 'Appropriately trained pharmacists are authorised through Regulation 4B and 4F of the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003 (as amended), to supply and administer vaccines listed in Schedule 8 and Schedule 12 of the regulations'.

2.2 Please outline any issues with the clarity or presentation of the draft report. In your response, where applicable, please specify the section to which you are referring.

We found the information in the draft report to be very comprehensive and presented clearly throughout.

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback with us

Please ensure that you return your completed form to us either by email or post, to reach us by Tuesday**, 20 January 2026**.

If you have any questions, please contact the evaluation team at consultation@hiqa.ie.