September 14, 2023

Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH
Executive Secretary, ACIP
Associate Director for Vaccine Policy
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA

Dear Dr. Wharton and ACIP members,

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit association, whose core membership comprises maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) physicians. As high-risk pregnancy experts who are dedicated to the optimization of pregnancy and perinatal outcomes, we write to thank you for your careful consideration of maternal immunization and your ongoing work towards improving the health of birthing people and their infants.

We would like to unequivocally state our support for Pfizer’s Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine, which is approved for active immunization of pregnant individuals at 32 through 36 weeks of gestation for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) and severe LRTD caused by RSV in infants from birth through 6 months of age. We believe this vaccine is safe, effective, and should be recommended. Although there is a need for ongoing surveillance, specifically with regards to breastfeeding and birthing outcomes, we support vaccination as part of a multicomponent approach against RSV illness in infants and towards reducing the disproportionate burden of RSV in racial minorities.

We have recently formed a standing committee on infectious disease, emerging threats, and emergency preparedness, comprised of MFM physicians with unique expertise in reproductive infectious disease. This group welcomes further opportunities for collaboration to ensure our members are represented in discussions and considerations related to pregnancy vaccination in the future.

Thank you again and please do not hesitate to contact me directly with questions.

Warm Regards,

Anthony Sciscione, DO
President, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine