



# The ABC's of

## Protect your baby from the start with BEYFORTUS®

### What is RSV and why is it important to protect my baby from it?

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a highly contagious virus that can lead to serious lung infections in babies.
- RSV infection can spread easily. All it takes is a cough, a sneeze, a kiss, or simply touching baby's face.
- RSV symptoms can be unpredictable, ranging from mild cold symptoms to severely troubled breathing. Symptoms typically peak on days 3 through 5 of illness but they can last for weeks.

**2 out of 3** babies  
will get RSV by 1  
year of age



RSV is the  
**most common cause**  
of hospitalizations in  
infants under 1 year



Babies are **16 times**  
**more likely** to be  
hospitalized with RSV  
than with the flu

### What is Beyfortus® and how does it work?

- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab-alip) is not a vaccine; it does not activate the immune system to make its own antibodies to attack RSV virus the way that an infection or vaccine would.
- Beyfortus® is given as a single injection that immediately starts protecting baby against severe RSV by giving babies the ready-made antibodies they need to fight off RSV infection when they can't yet provide for themselves. It can reduce the risk of severe RSV disease by about 80%.
- Beyfortus® is a preventative medication; it is not a treatment for RSV infection.

### Is it safe for my baby?

- The most common side effects reported are pain, redness, rash, or swelling where the injection was given.
- Beyfortus® does not contain RSV and cannot cause RSV illness.
- Beyfortus® can be given at the same time with other recommended vaccines.

### When should my baby get Beyfortus® and how long will protection last?

- RSV is most active during the winter virus season (October—March).
- The highest risk for severe RSV infection is in babies less than 6 months of age.
- Beyfortus® should be given at or before the start of your baby's first RSV season.
  - If baby is born during RSV season, Beyfortus® should be given within the first week of birth, either in the birth hospital or at their first doctor's visit.
  - If baby was born in the spring or summer, baby can get Beyfortus® at their regular checkup, just before the start of RSV season and before reaching 8 months of age.
- One dose of Beyfortus® provides protection for at least 5 months, the duration of an average RSV season.

### Who should not get Beyfortus®?

- Children who are 8 months old and older who are not at increased risk for severe RSV disease.
- Babies born to mothers who received the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo®) at least 14 days before birth.
- Children who are very sick, with or without fever, including those who have an active RSV infection can consider waiting until recovery from their illness before getting Beyfortus®.



### How can I get Beyfortus® for my baby?

- Ask your doctor or nurse about the availability of Beyfortus® for your baby prior to discharge from RUHS—Medical Center.
- Beyfortus® is covered by the Vaccines for Children program, a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children if they are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured or American Indian or Alaska Native.

#### References:

- 1) Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published June 5, 2024. Accessed August 20, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/>
  - 2) Beyfortus® (nirsevimab-alip). Sanofi Pasteur. Accessed August 20, 2024. <https://www.beyfortus.com/>
  - 3) Caserta M, Jones A. RSV: When it's more than just a cold. American Academy of Pediatrics. Published January 8, 2024. August 20, 2024. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/RSV-When-Its-More-Than-Just-a-Cold.aspx>
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