



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: August 22, 2023

Contact: Rick Rosen, MD, MPH, frosen@co.slo.ca.us, 805-781-5500

**RSV Update: New Monoclonal Antibody Authorized for Infants
*Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) now available for pre-order***

Anticipating the fall respiratory virus season in 2023-2024 and possibly another “triple-demic,” we want to make healthcare providers who serve infants aware of an antibody designed to protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the country’s leading cause of infant hospitalization.

Nirsevimab (Beyfortus), a long-acting monoclonal antibody product, has been shown to reduce the risk of both hospitalizations and healthcare visits for RSV in infants by about 80 percent. RSV typically causes 58,000-80,000 hospitalizations/year and 100-300 deaths/year in children aged < 5 years (CDC). Nirsevimab has been [approved by the FDA](#) and [recommended for wide use by the CDC](#) for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease.

A single IM injection of nirsevimab can protect infants and toddlers through an entire RSV season. The drug should be offered to **all neonates and infants who are less than eight months of age** as they enter their first RSV season (50 mg for infants <5 kg and 100 mg for infants ≥ 5 kg).

Additionally, high-risk children ages 8 to 19 months should receive a dose of nirsevimab (200 mg) before their second RSV season. This includes all the groups who were recommended to receive palivizumab (Synagis):

- Chronic lung disease of prematurity
- Severe immunocompromise
- Cystic fibrosis
- American Indian and Alaska Native children

With higher-than-normal population-level susceptibility to RSV due to the pandemic and a sizable wave of RSV in Australia (a good predictor of the upcoming Northern Hemisphere season), we may see another worse-than-average RSV season in North America. Local healthcare systems are strained by the surge of RSV cases even during average cold and flu seasons.

We urge providers who routinely vaccinate children to order a supply of nirsevimab and offer it to their age-appropriate patients in advance of the upcoming respiratory virus season. Birth hospitals are also advised to order a supply of nirsevimab to have on hand for neonates.

Nirsevimab will be included in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. **Our local Public Health clinics will offer nirsevimab to patients who have access to the VFC program. However, Public Health clinics will *not* have nirsevimab available for children outside of the VFC program.**

To pre-order your supply of Beyfortus, visit www.beyfortus.com/hcp and Sanofi’s www.vaccineshoppe.com. For more information on RSV, please visit www.cdc.gov/rsv.

Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org