



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

Date: October 12, 2023

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

Protecting Infants from RSV—Maternal RSV Vaccine and Infantile Monoclonal Antibodies

The CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer's prefusion F protein (RSVpreF) vaccine, Abrysvo, for use in pregnant individuals as a passive immunization strategy to prevent lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants less than 8 months of age. A preventative antibody therapy, Beyfortus (nirsevimab) has also recently been approved, so there are two options for protecting infants this winter. Both Abrysvo and Beyfortus are demonstrated to be safe and effective.

While RSV most often causes cold-like symptoms in infants and young children, it can also lead to severe disease such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis. In infants and children, the risk of RSV-associated LRTD is highest during the first year of life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in the U.S. RSV typically causes 58,000-80,000 hospitalizations/year and 100-300 deaths/year in children aged < 5 years (CDC). 79% of children hospitalized with RSV aged less than 2 years had no underlying medical conditions.

Vaccinating Pregnant Persons Against RSV (Abrysvo)

Abrysvo (RSVpreF) is approved for pregnant persons at 32 through 36 weeks gestation and is administered as a single intramuscular injection. The CDC recommends “seasonal administration” of Abrysvo, meaning that its use should focus on pregnant people who would reach 32 to 36 weeks of gestation during the period of September to January **to protect babies born between October and March**. Maternal RSV vaccine may be administered simultaneously with other vaccines.

Abrysvo would not be recommended for use in most of the continental U.S. from February to August. In those months, Beyfortus should be used to protect babies as they approach their first RSV season.

Administering Monoclonal Antibodies for Infants (Beyfortus)

Beyfortus (nirsevimab) is a preventative, long-acting monoclonal antibody product that has been shown to reduce the risk of both hospitalization and healthcare visits for RSV in infants by about 80%. Beyfortus 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 Beyfortus can protect infants and toddlers through an entire RSV season.

Public Health Department

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

www.slopublichealth.org



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

When Should Both Be Used?

For most infants, protection from either the maternal RSV vaccine or Beyfortus will suffice. If a baby is born less than two weeks after maternal immunization, the baby should also receive Beyfortus considering that at least 14 days are needed for transplacental transfer of maternal antibodies to protect the infant.

Steps to Creating Access in SLO County

County of San Luis Obispo Public Health clinics will be able to offer Beyfortus to children eligible for the *Vaccines For Children* (VFC) program, but not to those children with commercial insurance. **We strongly encourage pediatricians to consider offering Beyfortus in their practices.** In addition, providers should be prepared to help their patients find Beyfortus. Palivizumab (Synagis) remains an option for high-risk children when indicated.

Additional Details

- Patients should be directed to check with their health insurance companies first before receiving either Abrysvo or Beyfortus given that these are new preventative options.
- For more detailed information, see clinical guidance for the use of Abrysvo and Beyfortus from CDC at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciiw.

Public Health Department

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

www.slopublichealth.org