

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Availability of Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) for Infants in SLO County

Supply available at Public Health for infants who are Medi-Cal eligible or uninsured

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The Public Health Department has received a small supply of nirsevimab (Beyfortus), a monoclonal antibody for preventing respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants. This supply is provided through the Vaccines for Children program and is **available to infants who are uninsured or are eligible for Medi-Cal**.

RSV is the nation's leading cause of infant hospitalization. RSV season is underway nationally and even in a "normal RSV year," local healthcare systems can be strained by the surge of RSV cases. Nirsevimab (Beyfortus), a long-acting monoclonal antibody, has been shown to reduce the risk of both hospitalizations and healthcare visits for RSV in infants by about 80%. A single IM injection of nirsevimab can protect infants through an entire RSV season and is recommended by CDC for preventing RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease in infants.

Providers are encouraged to refer infants who meet the following criteria:

- Infants younger than 8 months of age entering their first RSV season; OR
- Children aged 8 months through 19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season; OR
- Children aged 8 through 19 months with the following conditions, shortly before or during their second RSV season: American Indian/Alaska Native children; children with chronic lung disease of prematurity who require medical support during the six months before the start of their second RSV season; children with severe immunocompromise; and children with severe cystic fibrosis;
- AND are eligible for the Vaccines for Children program (uninsured or eligible for Medi-Cal)

Nirsevimab supply is limited nationally, and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a <u>Health Advisory</u> with interim guidance for health care providers regarding this shortage.

RSV protection for infants may also be conferred through maternal vaccination with a single dose of Abrysvo, an RSV vaccine for adults. Abrysvo is recommended during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy through the end of January. See <u>CDC guidance on RSV vaccination for pregnant people</u>. Abrysvo is available for all eligible individuals regardless of insurance status.

Nirsevimab and Abrysvo are administered at Public Health clinics in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo.

To make a referral:

- Providers may fax referrals to 805-781-5543 and Public Health staff will follow up with patients to schedule.
- Patients/families may call 805-781-5500 directly to schedule; referrals are not required.