

Nirsevimab Infant RSV Monoclonal Antibody

Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) monoclonal antibodies are part of the Routine Yukon Immunization Program for infants.

What is Beyfortus™ (nirsevimab)?

Beyfortus™ (nirsevimab) is an injectable monoclonal antibody that helps protect infants from severe RSV illness. Unlike a vaccine, it provides pre-made antibodies that provide immediate protection against RSV. Nirsevimab reduces the risk of severe RSV disease by about 75% to 80% and provides protection for at least five months, covering a typical RSV season. It should be given as soon as possible at the beginning of the RSV season, and the dose is based on the child's weight.

What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common, highly contagious virus that infects the lungs and airways. Most children contract RSV before age two. While it usually causes mild cold-like symptoms, about 1 to 2% of infants under one year require hospitalization. RSV occurs year-round but is most common in the fall and winter.

Symptoms can include a runny or stuffy nose, cough, fever, poor feeding, wheezing, fast or difficult breathing, and, in young infants, pauses in breathing (apnea). In some children, RSV can lead to more serious illnesses such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia, which may require hospital care. Children who develop bronchiolitis may continue to experience wheezing for several years after infection.

Who should get the RSV monoclonal antibodies?

- All infants 8 months of age and younger in their first RSV season.
- High-risk infants up to 24 months during their second RSV season.

After your vaccination

Stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after receiving your vaccine. Although rare, a severe allergic reaction can happen shortly after vaccination. Clinic staff are prepared to treat this reaction immediately.

If you develop signs of a severe allergic reaction after leaving the clinic, call 911 or your local emergency number right away.

Possible reactions to the RSV monoclonal antibodies

- Redness, swelling, or tenderness at the injection site.
- Fever
- Rash.

These reactions are usually mild and last one to two days.

What you can do to relieve symptoms

- Apply a cool, damp cloth to the injection site.
- If needed, use a pain reliever such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), as directed by your health care provider.

Contact your health care provider if symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

What else can I do to help protect my child from RSV?

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water.
- Keep your child away from people who are sick.
- Avoid exposing your child to cigarette smoke or vaping.
- Do not share personal items such as cups, washcloths, or towels with people who are ill.
- If possible, breastfeed your child. Breastfeeding may help protect against RSV and other respiratory infections.