

Beyfortus RSV

For more information about RSV or Beyfortus, check out the following sites:

- [AAP RSV Patient Education](#)
- [HealthyChildren.org - RSV](#)
- [Beyfortus.com](#)

There is a new injectable medication available to prevent severe RSV illness in infants. This medication, "Beyfortus", gives immunity against the virus, but is not technically a vaccine. As a monoclonal antibody, this medicine gives infection-fighting power to the body by giving antibodies through the shot. Babies from birth to 8 months old (and some older babies with chronic health conditions) are eligible for this medication, which can reduce the risk of illness requiring hospitalization from RSV by up to 80% studies have shown.

Due to the structure of healthcare coverage and insurance in the US, payors have up to 12 months to decide to cover new vaccines. But remember, this is not a vaccine! Even if it is "covered" by your insurance, this may be applied to your deductible rather than covered at 100% like most vaccines. Also, the cost to purchase the drug from the manufacturer is very high. This means that families might be responsible for the high cost of this medication if insurance doesn't cover in full. We are looking at approximately/estimated \$750 per dose.

What should parents do?

- **Call your insurance company!!** See how much or IF they might cover Beyfortus for your newborn or infant under 8 months of age. If they cover, is a prior authorization needed? How much will they cover and what will be parent out of pocket deductible or coinsurance due? If they won't cover it, ask them why not and get a reference number so that we can try to then qualify the patient for state-funded private pay plan.
 - When you call you insurance, they might ask you for CPT codes and a diagnosis code.
 - **CPT Code** - this is based on your child's weight at time of service. It will either be 90380 (under 11 lbs) or 90381 (11 lbs and over). If your child is right around 11 lbs, it may not hurt to ask them to check both.
 - **Diagnosis Code** - for all injection of Beyfortus, the ICD-10 code is Z29.11.
- If you have a baby this RSV season (October thru March), ask the birth hospital if they are giving this medication to babies before leaving the hospital or scheduling as an outpatient at their facility after birth.

North Austin Pediatrics office locations are starting with a small number of doses in late October until we better understand coverage and patient/family interest is.

Children 8 through 19 months of age who are recommended to receive Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) when entering their second RSV season because of increased risk of severe disease

- Children with chronic lung disease of prematurity who required medical support (chronic corticosteroid therapy, diuretic therapy, or supplemental oxygen) any time during the 6-month period before the start of the second RSV season.
- Children who are severely immunocompromised.
- Children with cystic fibrosis who have manifestations of severe lung disease (previous hospitalization for pulmonary exacerbation in the first year of life or abnormalities on chest imaging that persist when stable) or have weight-for-length that is <10th percentile.
- American Indian and Alaska Native children (note that this is a new group for whom second-season prophylaxis is recommended in contrast to the current palivizumab recommendations).