

RSV Shots for Fall 2023 - FAQ 11.3.2023

What is RSV? RSV is the most common cause of hospitalization in children under age 1 year. Two to three out of every 100 **infants with RSV infection** may require a hospital stay. Those babies may need oxygen to help with breathing or (intravenous) IV fluids if they are not eating or drinking. Most of these children get better and can go home after a few days.

Do we see this at TVP? YES! Every season in our office, we see dozens of infants with RSV, many of whom need multiple visits, ER care, or hospitalization before this 3 week illness is over. All of that doesn't account for the countless hours of lost sleep, parental worry, and stress to the infant and family during one bout.

How do you treat RSV? Right now, the treatment is just supportive: fluids, monitoring, anti-fever medications and oxygen if needed. As with most viruses, there is no medication that will alleviate symptoms.

How do you prevent RSV? Like any viral upper respiratory infection, washing hands, avoiding exposure, and masks for those caretakers who are in direct contact with infants are the first lines of defense. In addition, there are exciting preventative measures: 1) maternal immunization while pregnant (Abrysvo), 2) a one-time RSV immunoglobulin injection (nirsevimab or Beyfortus), and 3) a monthly RSV immunoglobulin injection (palivizumab or Synagis). Option 3 is only for those infants <2 with certain high risk factors.

What does TVP recommend for babies birth-8months? TVP recommends that an RSV preventative measure be given to all babies aged birth to 8 months during RSV season if their mothers have not already received the RSV shot while pregnant.

If I am pregnant and receive the RSV shot, will my baby still need the RSV shot once they are born? There is no consensus on this issue at this time. It seems as though if you get this shot as a pregnant person, your infant may not need it later.

Is one of these shots better than the other? At this time, there is not a recommendation of one shot (maternal) vs the other (infant RSV shot). If you are pregnant, please consult your OB on the maternal shot option.

Is the infant RSV shot (Beyfortus/nirsevimab) a vaccine? No. This shot is a passive immunization via the delivery of antibodies to RSV directly. It is an injection given one time during the RSV season.

When can I get the RSV shot for my infant? We currently have a limited supply and will be ordering more as they become available, but only for the babies <11 pounds. There is no supply nationally for the >11 pound baby dose. Please see our webpage for updates as we get a supply.

How will I know if TVP has the RSV injection for my infant? Please [subscribe to our newsletter](#) at the bottom of our homepage and/or check with our website updates for Beyfortus options at TVP.

Process for Beyfortus injection at TVP:

1. Confirm your infant's eligibility:

- 1. Age:** birth up to 8 months is eligible (once your baby turns 8 months old, he/she is no longer eligible), but please see weight requirement below.
- 2. Previous RSV injection:** If your child has not received an RSV shot in the hospital at birth or via a maternal injection within 2 weeks of his/her delivery, then he/she is eligible.
- 3. Weight:** Less than 5 kilograms (~11 pounds). If you are unsure of your baby's weight, you can come in and get a weight. If he/she is >5kg, no shot will be given.

2. Call our office to be scheduled for an appointment. We will give this shot during regular office hours.

3. Once you are on the schedule, we will forward you our informational and consent link on this: <https://form.jotform.com/232855421994061> and collect a credit card to keep on file.

You will get the above link forwarded to you when you call for an appointment and it must be completed and signed prior to receiving the injection.

TVP will be verifying insurance coverage, but due to ever-changing coverages, the ultimate responsibility will be the parent/guardian to confirm coverage for this injection. If your insurance does not cover Beyfortus and your child receives the immunization, you will be charged on the day of service for \$550 via the credit card that we have on file. We will bill the insurance company first and accept their payment for this service.

The CPT codes to confirm with your insurance is: 90380 and 90381.

Please call your carrier or your employer to confirm their payment policies to allow for the administration of Beyfortus (nirsevimab) during the 2023-2024 season. (CPT codes 90380 and 90381).

What if I don't have insurance? If you are on an AHCCCS plan or are a self-pay patient, you are eligible for Beyfortus via the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. We will confirm that when you call to get on the schedule.

Final words on cost:

We are anticipating adequate payments from most or all insurance companies for Beyfortus, but verification by our office and ultimately from your confirmation after calling about your specific plan, is necessary prior to administration due to the high cost.

If you end up paying for this shot and at a later date your insurance company covers it, we will happily repost the charge to your insurance and refund your money.

We know that this is less than ideal, but at this time, insurance companies are giving our office no other options for this costly injection. Thank you for your understanding.

If cost is getting in the way of your child's receipt of this potentially life-saving shot, please call our office and we can walk you through your options.

Beyfortus Family Information Sheet:

Please see this [link](#) for the clinical information on RSV and Beyfortus.

[Beyfortus CDC Information Sheet](#)