



Dear Healthcare Practitioners, Hospital Partners, and Community-Based Organizations,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to you as the Chief Medical Officer(s) from the NM Department of Health and Turquoise Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to request the integration of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) into your medical practice, newborn nurseries, and neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) during the current viral respiratory season.

As you know, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the leading cause of hospitalization among infants in the United States. In August 2023, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended nirsevimab, a long-acting monoclonal antibody, for prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract disease in infants. Specifically, nirsevimab is recommended for:

- All babies younger than 8 months of age born to mothers who did not receive a maternal RSV vaccine (Pfizer's Abrysvo) during pregnancy. A nirsevimab dose should be given to babies shortly before the RSV season, or within 1 week after birth if born during October to March.
- Children 8-19 months of age who are at increased risk for severe RSV, including children who are Native American, have cystic fibrosis, Bronchopulmonary dysplasia or are immunocompromised. This nirsevimab dose should be given shortly before the child's second RSV season.

Nirsevimab during the 2023- 2024 RSV season was 90% effective against RSV-associated hospitalization in infants in their first RSV season. Only one dose of nirsevimab is needed during RSV season.

Nirsevimab delivers passive immunity by binding to the RSV virus and neutralizing it before cellular infection, significantly mitigating the risk of severe respiratory infections and safeguarding this vulnerable patient population.

There are ample supplies of nirsevimab this year. Nirsevimab is available through the NM Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program through the NMDOH for hospitals or community vaccine providers in New Mexico. When administered through the NM VFC Program, Turquoise Care MCOs cover its administration. If your facility and/or practice is interested in participating in the NM VFC program, please email Lynne Padilla lynne.padilla-truji@doh.nm.gov or go to <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/idb/imp/vfc/>.

Additional resources and information for practitioners and families about Nirsevimab can be found on the websites referenced below.

RSV Immunizations: New Ways to Protect Babies

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/RSV-immunizations-new-ways-to-protect-babies.aspx>

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine and Monoclonal Antibody

<https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/rsv-vaccine-monoclonal-antibody>

Help for RSV Infections: Information for American Indian & Alaska Native Families

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/help-for-RSV-infections-information-for-american-indian-and-alaska-native-families.aspx>

Can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine, flu vaccine, and RSV shot at the same visit?

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/can-children-get-COVID-19.aspx>

About Nirsevimab (including coding)

<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-prevention/nirsevimab-frequently-asked-questions/?srsltid=AfmBOoo74mxvc-jCApXgqjRjZMH6lr21vhrbB8C8EFx2KM-7uGpTwEgK>

We deeply appreciate your time and work in improving health for New Mexican's. Each of our organizations is available if you have questions or need assistance.

Warmest Regards,

Miranda Durham, MD

Robin Napoleone, MD

Darcie Robran-Marquez, MD

Denise Leonardi, MD

Brian Etheridge, MD