



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

September 3, 2024

Dear Provider,

Nirsevimab (Beyfortus® [Sanofi and AstraZeneca]), a long-acting monoclonal antibody that protects infants and young children from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), is now available to order from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Product (both 50 mg and 100 mg doses) can be ordered through the New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (Health Department's) [Online Registry](#).

Indications are as follows:

- Infants < 8 months of age born during or entering their first RSV season are recommended to receive one dose of nirsevimab (50 mg for infants <5 kg and 100 mg for infants ≥5 kg).
- Children ages 8-19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV and entering their second RSV season are recommended to receive one dose of nirsevimab (200 mg).

RSV season in NYC is defined as October through the end of March. Providers should target administration in the first week of life for infants born shortly before or during RSV season. Birthing hospitals should plan to administer nirsevimab before infants are discharged from their birth hospitalization. Nirsevimab should not be administered after the end of the RSV season (March 31).

Providers should ask the birthing parent if they were vaccinated against RSV during their recent pregnancy and check their electronic health records. Providers can also check the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), though the absence of a record does not mean the birthing parent was not vaccinated as not all adult immunizations are reported. Most children born to parents vaccinated during pregnancy should not receive nirsevimab; however, nirsevimab should be administered to the infant if the vaccination status of the birthing parent is unknown or if the infant was born within 14 days of the birthing parent's vaccination.

Though adequate supply of nirsevimab is expected for the VFC program and on the commercial market during the 2024-2025 RSV season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has instituted allocation caps for the start of the season. As such, the actual doses shipped may be less than the number of doses requested in an order. The NYC Health Department will work to optimize allocations to our providers such that all providers are able to commence immunization at the start of the season.

Use the following recommendations for placing orders:

- 50 mg – 2 to 3 weeks' supply per order (minimum of 10 doses per order)
- 100 mg – 1 month supply per order (minimum of 10 doses per order)

Providers are encouraged to forecast their nirsevimab needs by using the following questions as guidance:

- How many of your patients were born after March 31, 2024?
- What is the monthly average of new patients who are newborns?
 - What % of these patients are likely to be under 5 kg and need a 50 mg dose?
- How many patients who will be 8-19 months of age during the RSV season are at high risk and meet the eligibility criteria for nirsevimab during their second RSV season?
- What percentage of your nirsevimab-eligible patients are VFC eligible?
- How much storage space is in your vaccine refrigerators? (Take into consideration that this product will be administered during the influenza and COVID-19 vaccination seasons and storage space will need to be sufficient to store all vaccines.)

Nirsevimab is supplied in pre-filled syringes. VFC providers must adhere to the following storage and handling requirements:

- Keep refrigerated at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- May be kept at room temperature 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C) for a maximum of 8 hours.
- After removal from the refrigerator, must be used within 8 hours or discarded.
- Store in the original package to protect from light until time of use.
- Do not freeze or expose to heat.
- Do not use beyond the expiration date shown on the vial label.

Further information on nirsevimab clinical guidance and storage and handling requirements is available on the CDC webpage [RSV Immunization for Children 19 Months and Younger](#).

All administered doses of nirsevimab should be reported to the CIR.

For questions on RSV immunization of young children, please call the Health Department at 347-396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. As a reminder, Bureau of Immunization virtual office hours for all NYC immunizing providers take place on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. The link for the next office hours, which will be on September 4, 2024, is <https://nycdohmh.webex.com/nycdohmh/j.php?MTID=mc0f126001b8a350c056e94566761545f>.

Thank you for protecting NYC children from RSV.

Sincerely,



Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization