



## FAQ: Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) for RSV Prevention

### 1. What is Beyfortus?

Beyfortus (nirsevimab) is a long-acting monoclonal antibody designed to help protect infants and young children from severe lower respiratory tract disease caused by the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Unlike a vaccine, Beyfortus provides immediate immunity by delivering antibodies directly, rather than stimulating the body to make its own.

### 2. What is RSV?

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is a common respiratory virus that typically causes mild, cold-like symptoms in most people. However, in infants, especially premature babies and those with certain health conditions, RSV can lead to severe respiratory infections such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia.

### 3. Who should receive Beyfortus?

According to the CDC and the manufacturer's recommendations:

- **All infants** under 8 months of age entering or during their first RSV season.
- **Certain children** between 8–19 months of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV infection, such as those with chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, or immunocompromised conditions.

### 4. How does Beyfortus work?

Beyfortus works by providing immediate protection through a monoclonal antibody called nirsevimab. This antibody helps prevent RSV from infecting the lower respiratory tract, where it can cause serious illness. The protection lasts through the entire RSV season, which typically runs from fall to spring.

### 5. How is Beyfortus administered?

Beyfortus is given as a single intramuscular injection, typically into the thigh. The dosage is weight-based:

- **Infants weighing 5 kg or less** receive 50 mg.
- **Infants weighing more than 5 kg** receive 100 mg.

## **6. When should my baby get Beyfortus?**

Beyfortus is typically administered before or during the start of the RSV season, which begins in the fall. Your healthcare provider will guide you on the appropriate time for the injection based on your child's age and health.

## **7. How long does Beyfortus provide protection?**

Beyfortus offers protection for about 5 months, which covers a typical RSV season. If your child is at higher risk and still susceptible the following RSV season, your healthcare provider may recommend another dose.

## **8. What are the potential side effects of Beyfortus?**

The most common side effects are:

- Injection site reactions, such as redness, swelling, or pain.
- Rash or mild fever.

Serious allergic reactions are rare but possible. Seek medical attention if you notice signs of an allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat, or severe rash.

## **9. Does Beyfortus replace the need for other RSV prevention treatments?**

Beyfortus is a new option for RSV prevention and may be recommended over or alongside other preventive treatments, such as Synagis (palivizumab). Talk to your healthcare provider to understand what's best for your child, especially if they have received RSV prevention treatments in the past.

## **10. How can I get Beyfortus for my baby?**

Beyfortus is available by prescription. Speak with your pediatrician or healthcare provider to see if your child qualifies for this treatment. They can provide guidance on where and when to receive the injection.

## **11. Is Beyfortus safe?**

Yes, Beyfortus has undergone extensive clinical testing and is approved by regulatory agencies like the FDA for use in infants to prevent severe RSV infection. It has shown to be both effective and safe, with a low risk of serious side effects.

## **12. Where can I learn more about Beyfortus and RSV prevention?**

You can find more detailed information on the CDC's website under RSV prevention and on the manufacturer's official Beyfortus website. Your healthcare provider can also offer personalized advice and resources