

## Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): Protection for Newborns

### What is RSV?

**Respiratory syncytial** [sin-SIS-shul] **virus**, or **RSV**, is a common virus that affects the lungs. It causes cold-like symptoms such as coughing, runny nose, fever, and wheezing.

These symptoms are usually mild, and people get better in a week or two, but some babies develop severe infections and need hospitalization. Babies younger than 6 months old are at highest risk for going to the hospital.

### Can RSV be prevented?

Yes! Newborns can be protected from RSV infection in 2 ways: a vaccine (Abrysvo®) given to the mother during pregnancy and nirsevimab (Beyfortus®), an RSV antibody immunization for newborns.

In most cases, only the mother or the baby need immunization in order to provide enough protection for an infant. Review the comparison chart below and talk with your doctor about your options.

	<b>Abrysvo (RSV vaccine)</b>	<b>Nirsevimab (RSV antibody)</b>
<b>Who gets it?</b>	Mothers, during pregnancy, between 32 to 36 weeks gestation	Babies younger than 8 months old
<b>What time of year is it given?</b>	Between September and January	Once at the beginning of, or during, RSV season (October through March) Only needed if the mother did not get the vaccine at least 14 days before delivery
<b>How it is given?</b>	Injection (shot) into a large muscle, like the upper arm	Injection (shot) into a large muscle, like the upper leg or buttocks
<b>What are the side effects?</b>	Pain where the shot was given Headache Nausea May increase the risk of pre-term birth	Pain where the shot was given
<b>Is a second dose needed?</b>	One dose is all that is needed.	Babies age 8 months to 19 months may need a dose in their second RSV season if they have: Long-term lung disease A weak disease-fighting system (immunocompromised) Severe cystic fibrosis American Indian or Alaska Native heritage

