

Advocare Vernon Pediatric and Family Care
249 Route 94
Vernon, NJ 07462

Dear Parents,

We are committed to providing your family with the best care and information to ensure your baby's health and well-being. We are writing to inform you about Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and the Beyfortus immunization.

Understanding RSV:

RSV is a common virus that affects the respiratory tract, particularly in infants and young children. While most RSV infections cause mild, cold-like symptoms, in some cases, it can lead to more severe respiratory illnesses, including bronchiolitis and pneumonia. These conditions may require hospitalization, especially in infants.

About the Beyfortus Immunization:

Beyfortus is a monoclonal antibody that provides passive immunity to help protect your baby from severe RSV disease. It is administered as a single intramuscular injection, typically before the RSV season, which usually runs from fall to spring. This immunization is particularly recommended for infants born during or shortly before the RSV season.

Insurance Coverage:

In the packet accompanying this letter, you will find instructions on how to verify if Beyfortus is covered by your insurance plan. It is crucial that you add your newborn to your insurance policy as soon as possible to ensure coverage. Once your baby is added, you can follow the provided steps to check coverage specifics for the Beyfortus immunization.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or need further assistance. We are here to support you and your family every step of the way.

Warm regards,

The Advocare Vernon Pediatric and Family Care Team

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Vaccine:

What You Need to Know

Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1. Why get vaccinated?

RSV vaccine can prevent lower respiratory tract disease caused by **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)**. RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms.

RSV can cause illness in people of all ages but may be especially serious for infants and older adults.

- RSV is the most common cause of hospitalization in U.S. infants. Infants up to 12 months of age (especially those 6 months and younger) and children who were born prematurely, or who have chronic lung or heart disease, or a weakened immune system, are at increased risk of severe RSV disease.
- RSV infections can be dangerous for certain adults. Adults at highest risk for severe RSV disease include older adults, especially those with chronic heart or lung disease, a weakened immune system, certain other chronic medical conditions, or who live in nursing homes.

RSV spreads through direct contact with the virus, such as when droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze contact your eyes, nose, or mouth. It can also be spread by someone touching a surface, such as a doorknob, that has the virus on it, and then touching your face.

Symptoms of RSV infection may include runny nose, decreased appetite, coughing, sneezing, fever, or wheezing. In very young infants, symptoms of RSV may also include irritability (fussiness), decreased activity, or apnea (pauses in breathing for more than 10 seconds).

Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be more serious, resulting in shortness of breath and low oxygen levels. RSV can cause bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs). RSV can also lead to worsening of other medical conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

(a chronic disease of the lungs that makes it hard to breathe), or heart failure (when the heart cannot pump enough blood and oxygen throughout the body).

Infants and older adults who get very sick from RSV may need to be hospitalized. Some may even die.

2. RSV vaccine

There are two immunization options available for protecting infants against RSV: maternal vaccine for the pregnant woman or preventive antibodies given to the baby. Only one of these options is needed for most babies to be protected.

CDC recommends a one-time dose of RSV vaccine for **pregnant women from week 32 through week 36 of pregnancy** for the prevention of RSV disease in their infants during the first 6 months of life.

This vaccine is recommended to be given from September through January for most of the United States. However, in some locations (for example, the territories, Hawaii, Alaska, and parts of Florida), the timing of vaccination may differ based on the time of year when RSV circulates in the area.

CDC recommends a one-time-dose of RSV vaccine for **everyone 75 years and older** and for **adults 60 through 74 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease**. Adults 60 through 74 years old who are at increased risk include those with chronic heart or lung disease, a weakened immune system, or certain other chronic medical conditions, and those who are residents of nursing homes.

RSV vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.



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3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of RSV vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone RSV vaccination until a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting RSV vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Pain, redness, and swelling where the shot is given, fatigue (feeling tired), fever, headache, nausea, diarrhea, and muscle or joint pain can happen after RSV vaccination.

Serious neurologic conditions, including Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), have been reported after RSV vaccination in some older adults. At this time, an increased risk of GBS following RSV vaccine among persons aged 60 years and older cannot be confirmed or ruled out.

Preterm birth and high blood pressure during pregnancy, including pre-eclampsia, have been reported among pregnant women who received RSV vaccine. It is unclear whether these events were caused by the vaccine.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

V-Safe is a safety monitoring system that lets you share with CDC how you, or your dependent, feel after getting RSV vaccine. You can find information and enroll in V-Safe at vsafe.cdc.gov.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff do not give medical advice.*

6. How can I learn more?

- Ask your health care provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.



Script for Calling Insurance Regarding Coverage of Beyfortus Monoclonal Antibody

Our goal is to provide quality cost-effective care. Thus, we want to help families understand their plan benefits to prevent them from incurring unexpected expenses. The following script can be used to help families determine coverage for Beyfortus.

Introduction: "Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am calling to inquire about coverage for a specific medication under my health insurance plan. I have some information and codes that I need to confirm with you. May I provide my member number to ensure we are discussing my specific plan?"

Provide Member Information: "My member number is [Your Member Number]. Could you please confirm that you have my plan details in front of you?"

Clarify the Purpose of the Call: "I am seeking clarification on whether the Beyfortus monoclonal antibody is covered under my plan. This is not a vaccine, but a monoclonal antibody for RSV prevention. I understand that insurance companies often state they cover recommended vaccines, but this does not apply here as Beyfortus is not classified as a vaccine."

Provide Specific Codes: "I have the specific billing codes for the medication, which are essential for confirming coverage:

- 90380: RSV monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose; 0.5 mL dosage, IM
- 90381: RSV monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose; 1 mL dosage, IM

Could you please verify if these codes are covered under my plan?"

Emphasize the Need for Specific Plan Confirmation: "I understand that insurance companies generally cover vaccines, but I need confirmation specific to my plan regarding these monoclonal antibodies. It's crucial that I receive confirmation based on my plan's details. If this information is not checked against my specific plan, I cannot consider it confirmed."

Request Documentation: "Could you please provide documentation or a reference number for this call, confirming whether these codes are covered under my specific plan? This will help ensure that if there are any issues later, I have a record of this confirmation."

Closing: "Thank you for your assistance today. I appreciate your help in confirming this important information. Have a great day!"

Note to Parents:

- Ensure you have your member number ready before making the call.
- Keep a record of the call, including the date, time, and the name of the representative you spoke with.
- If you do not receive clear confirmation specific to your plan, consider following up with a written request for verification.



RSV Beyfortus Patient Financial Responsibility Form

Care Center Name: _____

Guarantor Information

Name (Parent/Guardian/Representative): _____

Patient Information:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Acknowledgment and Agreement:

1. I acknowledge that while all Advocare contracted insurance companies generally cover the Beyfortus RSV monoclonal antibody injection, individual insurance plans may have varying coverages.
2. I understand that if the patient's insurance plan does not cover the Beyfortus RSV monoclonal antibody injection, as the Guarantor (named above), I will be financially responsible for both the cost of the injection and its administration.
3. I have been informed and understand that I can contact my insurance provider to verify coverage for this injection using the following CPT codes:
 - 90380 – RSV monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose; 0.5 mL dosage, IM
 - 90381 – RSV monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose; 1 mL dosage, IM
4. If the injection is not covered by the insurance plan, as the Guarantor, I agree to cover the balance owed, up to a total charge of \$750 per injection. For children eight months or older who are at high risk, two injections are required at a cost of \$750 each (totaling \$1,500).

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I read, understood, and agree to the terms and conditions mentioned above and accept full financial responsibility as stated.

Guarantor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Invalid date