



## Protecting Your Baby from RSV: Information for Expecting and New Parents

### What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that can cause serious illness in infants, especially those under 6 months of age. RSV is most active in the fall and winter months. It is a leading cause of hospitalization in babies and can cause bronchiolitis and pneumonia.

### Two Options for Protecting Your Baby:

To help protect infants during RSV season, there are two effective prevention strategies:

#### 1. Maternal RSV Vaccine (Abrysvo)

- **What it is:** A vaccine given to pregnant individuals to pass protective antibodies to the baby before birth.
- **How it works:** When given during the third trimester, the mother produces RSV-specific antibodies that are transferred to the baby through the placenta. These antibodies help protect the baby during the first few months of life, when they are most vulnerable.
- **Who can get it:** Pregnant individuals between **32 and 36 weeks gestation**.
- **When it is given:** Recommended only during **September through January** to provide protection during RSV season.
- **Why timing matters:** The protection passed to the baby wanes over time, so the vaccine is only offered to those due during or just before RSV season.
- **Is it safe?** Yes. Abrysvo has been studied in thousands of pregnant individuals and their infants. Clinical trials have shown it to be effective in reducing severe RSV illness in infants and safe for both mother and baby.

#### 2. Infant Monoclonal Antibody (Beyfortus)

- **What it is:** A one-time injection given to infants to provide immediate protection against RSV.
- **How it works:** Beyfortus contains a protein called a monoclonal antibody that targets and neutralizes RSV. It provides immediate, long-lasting protection during the RSV season by helping the baby's immune system fight off the virus.
- **Who can get it:**
  - All infants under 8 months of age entering their first RSV season.
  - Newborns born during the RSV season (**October—March**) who's mother's did not receive Abrysvo.
  - Some high-risk infants (such as those with chronic lung or heart conditions) up to 19 months old entering their second RSV season.
- **When it is given:** Typically administered in the **early fall (beginning October 1st)**, just before RSV season begins.
- **Is it safe?** Yes. Beyfortus has been shown in clinical trials to be both safe and highly effective in preventing RSV-related hospitalizations and lower respiratory tract infections in infants.

### Which Option is Right for My Baby?

- If you are **expecting a baby between September and March**, you may be offered the **maternal RSV vaccine** during your third trimester by your obstetrician.
- If you are due **outside of RSV season (spring and summer)**, your baby may instead receive **Beyfortus** in the fall.

### Have Questions?

We're here to help you make the best decision for your growing family. Please speak with your provider to learn more about which RSV prevention option is right for you and your baby.