



# NETWORK Notification

**Notice Date:** December 13, 2024  
**To:** Ohio Medicaid Providers  
**From:** CareSource  
**Subject:** Newborn RSV Prevention  
**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

## Summary

As respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season approaches CareSource would like to remind providers the medications available to prevent severe RSV during the newborn period. RSV continues to be one of the top reasons newborns are hospitalized every year.

## Impact

Abrysvo is the only vaccine approved for pregnant people during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy. Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) is an antibody that can be given one time during RSV season in newborns up to eight months of age. Synagis (Palivizumab) is another antibody given multiple times during RSV season to infants more susceptible to severe RSV infections. If a person receives Abrysvo during 32-36 weeks of pregnancy, the newborn will not need the antibody.

Members may receive the medication during an office visit, in the hospital or at a pharmacy.

Requirements for RSV Products		
Ohio Medicaid	Medical Prior Authorization Required	Pharmacy Prior Authorization Required
Abrysvo	No	Yes
Beyfortus (Nirsevimab)	No	Yes
Synagis (Palivizumab)	Yes	Yes

## Importance

Infants at increased risk of severe RSV disease include premature infants, those with chronic lung or heart disease, and who have a weakened immune system. RSV can lead to severe infection like bronchiolitis and pneumonia. 2-3% of infants with RSV require hospitalization. Vaccinating pregnant people during the third trimester or providing newborns an antibody injection can play an important role in avoiding severe disease and decreasing hospitalization.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Health Partner Services at **1-800-488-0134**, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time (ET).

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