

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Department Administrators
Vaccine Providers, Medical Directors, and Vaccine Coordinators

FROM: IDPH Immunization Section

DATE: November 22, 2023

RE: **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccines Inadvertently Administered to Infants**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received several reports of vaccine providers who have inadvertently administered RSV vaccines (Arexvy or Abrysvo) to infants, rather than giving them the RSV monoclonal antibody product recommended for infants. The recommended immunizing product (RSV monoclonal antibody) for infants is nirsevimab (trade name: Beyfortus, commercialized by Sanofi and manufactured by AstraZeneca).

As a reminder Arexvy and Abrysvo are not approved or recommended for use in infants and young children. These RSV vaccines have not been studied in infants and young children; therefore, vaccine safety and effectiveness for this population are unknown.

Vaccine providers who carry both nirsevimab for use in infants and young children and RSV vaccines for use in adults and pregnant people should be especially diligent in following vaccine administration safety procedures to prevent errors.

REPORTING ADVERSE EVENTS

We encourage providers to promptly report vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#). If a vaccine administration error occurs, please reach out to CDC at NIPINFO@cdc.gov for further guidance.

RESOURCES

For more information, please refer to the following CDC resources:

Vaccine Administration

- [Vaccine Administration Protocols | CDC](#)
- [Vaccine Administration: Preventing Vaccine Administration Errors \(cdc.gov\)](#)

RSV Immunizations

- [RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) Immunizations | CDC](#)
- [Healthcare Providers: RSV Immunization for Children 19 Months and Younger | CDC](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About RSV Immunization with Monoclonal Antibody for Children 19 Months and Younger | CDC](#)
- [RSV Vaccination: What Parents Should Know | CDC](#)
- [ACIP and AAP Recommendations for Nirsevimab | Red Book Online | American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Health Alert Network: Limited Availability of Nirsevimab in the United States – Interim CDC Recommendations to Protect Infants from RSV During the 2023-2024 Respiratory Virus Season](#)

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

For help, questions or feedback please contact the IDPH Immunization Section at dph.vaccines@illinois.gov or call 217-785-1455 and select option 2.

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