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RSV IS THE #1 CAUSE OF HOSPITALIZATION FOR CHILDREN LESS THAN 1 YEAR OLD

2x
PREMATURE BABIES ARE 2 TIMES AS LIKELY TO BE ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR RSV-RELATED SYMPTOMS THAN FULL-TERM BABIES

UP TO
125,000
NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS WHO WILL BE ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS EACH RSV SEASON

WHAT IS RSV?
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common virus affecting the breathing of infants and babies that usually occurs in the fall and winter months. Among premature infants, RSV can pose a major health risk.

Who’s At Risk?
- Preterm infants born at <30 weeks gestation
- Infants who are being treated for chronic lung disease
- Infants with congenital heart disease
- Infants with congenital abnormalities of the airway or neuromuscular disease that affects lung development

Symptoms of RSV
Among infants, the most serious symptoms include:
- Rapid breathing
- Difficulty breathing
- Mouth, fingernail and skin that looks blue
- High fever
- Thick discharge from the nose
- Dehydration
- Chest retractions
- Wheezing

What You Can Do
There is a monthly injection for premature infants at high risk for RSV called palivizumab. You will need to work with your doctor and insurance company to get your baby access to this treatment.

- Talk to your baby’s pulmonologist and pediatrician about whether your infant is at risk for RSV and qualifies for palivizumab
- Have your doctor help you talk with your insurance company about covering palivizumab for your baby
- Complete a Patient Authorization Form your doctor will give you

Learn more at chestnet.org/patient-education-resources/rsv

Many factors beyond what are listed in this infographic can affect your infant’s health, and should be discussed thoroughly with your clinician(s) regarding your specific case.

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