

*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

November 7, 2023

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:**

**Authorization for the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or Designee to Administer Privately Purchased Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) to Protect Eligible High-Risk Infants Against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Regardless of their Insurance Status, and to Waive Billing for the Immunizations in Certain Circumstances; Ratification of HCA's Administration of Immunizations in Anticipation of your Board's Approval.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That your Board authorize the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or designee to administer privately purchased Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) to protect eligible, high-risk infants against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) regardless of their insurance status, and to waive direct or balance billing of patients for privately purchased Nirsevimab doses that are not covered by Medi-Cal or private insurance.
2. Ratification of HCA's administration of Nirsevimab doses as described herein in anticipation of your Board's approval.

**REASON FOR RATIFICATION:**

To address the current shortage of Nirsevimab available through the Vaccines for Children program, HCA has administered privately purchased Nirsevimab doses to high-risk infants in anticipation of your Board's approval.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Mandatory: No  
 Source of Funding: VCMC Operating Revenues/Collections/ General Fund; Gold Coast Health Plan Quality Incentive Program and Plan (QIPP) funds  
 Funding Match Required: None  
 Impact on Other Departments: None

Annual Revenues and Costs for the proposed change

FY 2023-24

Revenue: \$ 7,800  
 Direct Costs: \$ 280,279.20  
 Indirect Costs: None  
 Net Revenue <cost> (\$272,479.20)

**Current Year Fiscal Budget Projections**

<b>Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projections for Ventura County Medical Center #3300</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Expenditures	\$673,790,899	\$673,790,899	\$673,790,899	\$0
Revenue	\$665,452,626	\$665,452,626	\$665,452,626	\$0
Operational Income/(Loss)	(\$8,338,273)	(\$8,338,273)	(\$8,338,273)	\$0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 23-24 adopted budget. The operational income includes "Operating Transfers In" that are primarily attributed to County contribution.

The fiscal impact assumes immunization of 600 high risk infants with Medi-Cal or no insurance during this respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season using privately purchased Nirsevimab. The combined cost is \$467.13 per Nirsevimab dose. It assumes the ability to bill Medi-Cal for the vaccine administration fee for all children. Ventura County Medical Center will absorb the costs in its operating budget.

**DISCUSSION:**

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) causes serious illness in infants and young children. In the United States, respiratory illnesses including RSV are the most common cause of hospitalizations for infants under one. Nirsevimab is a new, highly effective immunization that protects infants against RSV. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends a single dose of Nirsevimab for all infants under eight months during their first RSV season and a single dose for children whose medical conditions put them at high risk for serious RSV infections during their second RSV season.

Ventura County Medical System (VCMS) intends to offer Nirsevimab to eligible children in both the hospital and outpatient clinics. Unfortunately, there is a severe national shortage of Nirsevimab that is also being experienced locally. VCMS has convened a

group of clinical experts who have created clinical guidelines to allocate the available Nirsevimab to the children who need it the most. It is the intent of HCA to provide this immunization to the highest risk children regardless of their ability to pay.

The typical VCMS approach to purchasing and providing immunizations is to obtain and administer immunizations for children with Medi-Cal and who are uninsured at no cost to the County through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and to purchase immunizations from manufacturers for children with private insurance. The cost of privately purchased vaccines is recouped through billing. Children receive the same vaccines through both routes, they are only separated for billing purposes. VFC has closed ordering for Nirsevimab due to lack of supply. VCMS was only able to obtain 80 doses of Nirsevimab through VFC for the thousands of infants with Medi-Cal under our care before ordering was closed. VCMS has been able to obtain substantially more Nirsevimab through private purchases and expects to be able to obtain more.

With your Board's approval, VCMS proposes to administer privately purchased Nirsevimab to infants and young children with Medi-Cal and to the very small number of eligible infants without health insurance. VCMS will absorb the cost of any Nirsevimab that Medi-Cal does not reimburse rather than passing those costs on to patients. Nirsevimab will only be administered to the highest risk infants and children based on our local allocation guidelines which will likely evolve throughout the RSV season. VCMS does not expect the total number of Nirsevimab doses administered to children with Medi-Cal or who are uninsured to exceed 600 doses or \$272,479.20

To minimize the financial impact VCMS will continue to make every effort to obtain Nirsevimab through VFC. VCMS will review Nirsevimab utilization periodically throughout the RSV season.

This Board letter has been reviewed by County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Theresa Cho, MD, Chief Executive Officer of Ambulatory Care, at (805) 677-5290.



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