

From: [swapnil brahmankar](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda No 24 Public Comment
Date: Saturday, November 4, 2023 12:50:41 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Nirsevimab For Our Most Vulnerable Patients

RSV Single Dose Monoclonal Antibody

Nearly all children will be infected by respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, by the time they turn 2. RSV infects the smallest airways in the lungs and not only causes an illness that can last for weeks after contracting, but often causes changes in the lungs leading to chronic childhood asthma for years after the initial infection. In the U.S., initial RSV infection leads to over 2 million outpatient visits and 58,000 hospitalizations of kids under 5 every year. The only protection against RSV until this season, was a series of five monthly injections approved for a very small subset of infants at the highest risk, including babies born with severe heart and lung defects or those born extremely premature.

Nirsevimab, a single-dose long-acting injection is available this year for the first time to all infants under age 8 months, and those at high risk between 8-19 months. In a global multi-center trial, Nirsevimab reduced the incidence of lower respiratory tract infections related to RSV that required medical attention by 74.5% compared to the placebo group. That means countrywide we could see a potential drop of over 1 million outpatient visits and over 40,000 hospitalizations in children under age 5. Not to mention, we could potentially see long-term positive health outcomes that we may not have even imagined.

Before the introduction of effective vaccines, H. influenzae type b was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis and other invasive bacterial disease, primarily among children younger than age 5 years; approximately one in 200 children in this age group developed invasive Hib disease. Approximately two-thirds of all cases occurred among children younger than age 18 months. Since the introduction of the vaccine in the 1980s, the incidence of invasive Hib disease has dropped by 99%.

It is well documented that poverty and crowding are associated with increased incidence of any infectious disease and that follows with RSV as well. By allocating specific doses for our most vulnerable in Ventura County we could see exponential benefits as we have seen with Hib and Covid vaccinations for our most at-risk populations.

We as a community know that any infectious disease outbreak causes increased healthcare resource utilization and costs, as well as costs at the household level; stress for the caregiver, loss of work productivity, and compounding societal costs as a result. Let's make the right choice for our community and witness the lasting benefits for generations to come.

Joni Bhutra MD, MBA

Clinical Medical Director

Pediatrician

Ventura County Health Care Agency