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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

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TO: [Name of Hospital] Medical Director, Quality Improvement Directors

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Chief   
Center for Infectious Diseases  
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Enrollment: No-Cost Immunizations to Protect Vulnerable Infants

Dear [Name of Medical Director]:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) strongly encourages you to protect newborns at your facility who are eligible for Medi-Cal against severe RSV infection with no-cost [nirsevimab](#) by [enrolling in the California Vaccines for Children Program](#) (VFC). **As your hospital is one of the birthing facilities serving most VFC-eligible infants, CDPH invites your pharmacy team to register for a special webinar for birthing hospitals on either [Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm \(PT\)](#) or on [Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm \(PT\)](#) to learn how CDPH is supporting your enrollment in VFC, with many benefits to your facility:**

**Save costs:** Enrollment in VFC will provide you with nirsevimab **at no cost for eligible infants** (current market price of [\\$519.75 per dose](#)). Data from Medi-Cal indicate **[number]** infants eligible for Medi-Cal were born at your hospital in 2022. VFC enrollment would have saved you **[\$ total amount saved]** in purchase costs for these infants. Note that unimmunized infants admitted for RSV infection have an average [cost of over \\$11,000](#).

**Protect infants:** Data collected last fall and winter suggest that nirsevimab was [90% effective](#) in preventing infant hospitalization for RSV in the first months after administration.

**Minimal formulary:** After enrollment, your hospital may choose to order only RSV and Hepatitis B immunizations for newborns under your care or all pediatric vaccines.

**Prompt protection:** Immunizing infants in the hospital rather than the clinic can save time and visits while avoiding delays, hastening protection, and offering parents peace of mind.



**Public recognition:** On its [website](#), CDPH has now posted, "The ***Immunization-Friendly Birth Hospital Honor Roll***." By [enrolling in VFC](#), you can join your peers in the Honor Roll.

### **How to Enroll to Protect Infants Before Next RSV Season**

We're calling on you and other birth and neonatal hospitals that serve Medi-Cal and uninsured patients to prepare for the upcoming RSV season by August 31, 2024. For assistance, email us at [VFCEnrollment@CDPH.CA.GOV](mailto:VFCEnrollment@CDPH.CA.GOV) and register above for one of the webinars in June.

*"I will tell you that it is not a lot of work on your part as the provider of record to enroll in VFC...It's a very small amount of work and a huge benefit to the babies."* — Dr. Cindy Blifeld, MD, Lompoc Valley Medical Center, October 2023.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the health of vulnerable infants under your care.