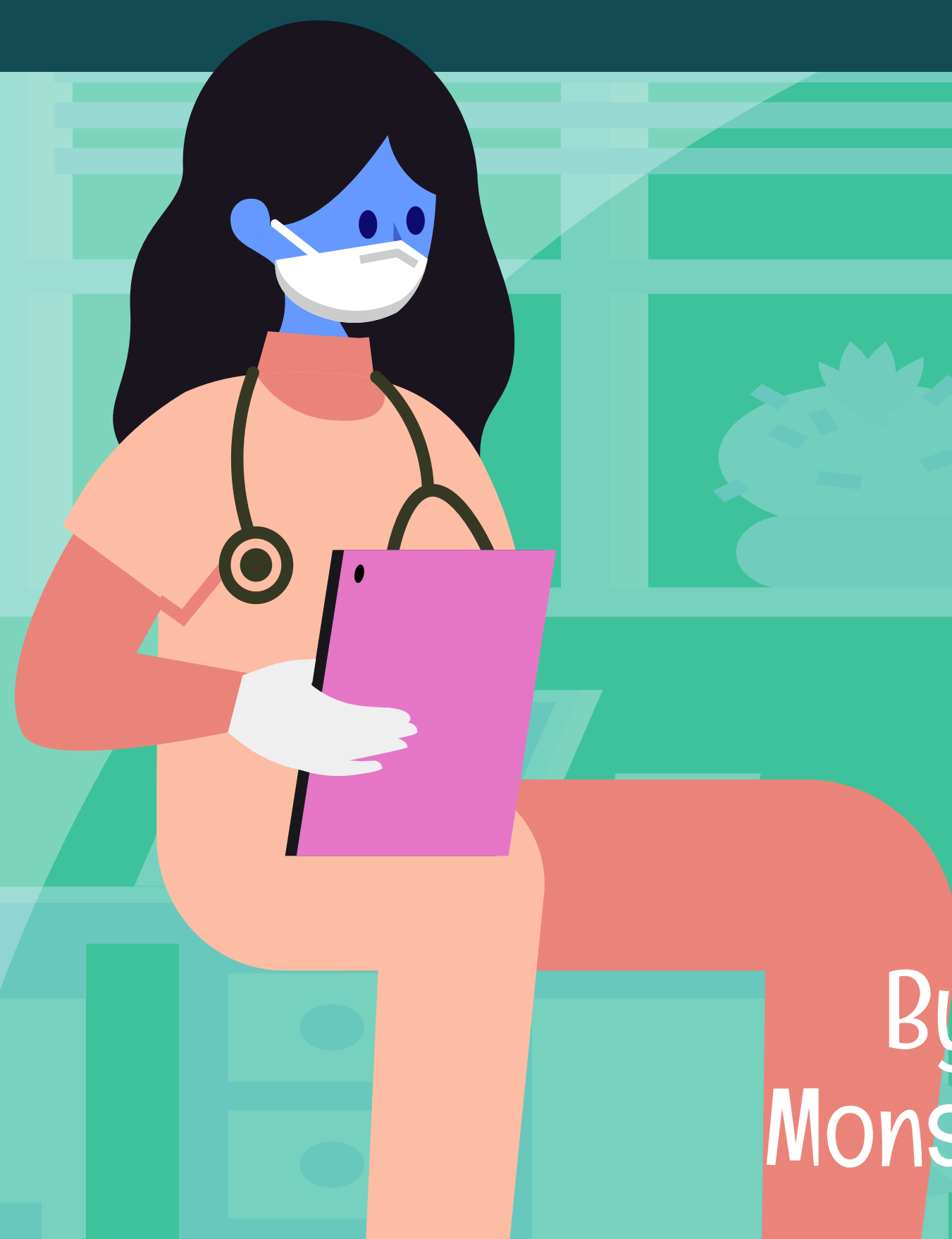


Preventing RSV



Stewie Shares

Monthly Antimicrobial Memo
August 2021



As Easy as 1-2-3

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What is RSV?

- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes mild to severe viral infections
- Usually affects **infants or younger children** & adults **> 65 years** ([learn about risk here](#))
- Spreads easily by droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Symptoms start within 4-6 days of exposure

What are symptoms of RSV?

- Fever, nasal congestion, and runny nose
- Sneezing, coughing, or wheezing
- Poor appetite and poor feeding
- If your child experiences difficulty or rapid breathing or is dehydrated, call the doctor or go to the emergency department
- [Click here for more symptoms of RSV](#)

How is RSV prevented?

- **Wash hands** often and avoid touching your face
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces
- Stay home when ill and avoid sick people
- **Cover your mouth** when sneezing/coughing
- Some high-risk children may receive **palivizumab**, an antibody which reduces RSV hospitalizations ([click here](#))

How can I treat RSV?

- RSV is a virus so **antibiotics are not effective**
- Having a bacterial infection with RSV is uncommon even in hospitalized children (<1%)
- Treat symptoms with OTC fever/pain reducers (Tylenol or Motrin) and drink fluids
- Talk to your doctor before giving your child OTC cold medicine

Why are we seeing higher numbers of RSV this summer?

- RSV infections occur during the winter, but this summer we have seen an **unusual increase in cases**
- Measures used to stop COVID-19 (masking, distancing) likely prevented RSV circulation
- With reduced RSV last winter, older infants and toddlers might be at increased risk of severe illness because they likely had less exposure to RSV previously
- The American Academy of Pediatrics published guidance for healthcare providers on use of palivizumab in high-risk patients during this atypical RSV season ([click here](#))



Guest author, **Philomena Chika Duru**, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN, CIC, is the interim Director of Infection Prevention and Control. Chika's passion for making a difference in saving (patient's) lives is clearly defined and influences her daughter who is passionately doing the same via dental medicine. We both believe in the core strategy of promoting a safe & unyielding excellence in saving lives.