

November 3, 2022

Authorization of palivizumab (Synagis) for respiratory syncytial virus season

Dear provider,

You are receiving this notification to update you on California Children Services' (CCS') policy regarding the authorization of palivizumab (Synagis) for the 2022-2023 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season only. Read the full update from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) here: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Documents/CCS-Information-Notice-22-04.pdf>

Eligibility criteria: Palivizumab (Synagis) is a benefit for CCS members regardless of the eligible medical condition. Members must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Preterm infants without Chronic Lung Disease of Prematurity or Congenital Heart Disease.
2. Preterm infants with Chronic Lung Disease (CLD).
3. Infants with hemodynamically significant Congenital Heart Disease (CHD).
4. Anatomic pulmonary abnormalities or neuromuscular disorder.
5. Immunocompromise.
6. Down syndrome.
7. Cystic fibrosis.

Authorization: Palivizumab injections are administered monthly. Previously, five monthly doses of palivizumab could be authorized with the understanding that five doses would provide more than six months (24 weeks) of protective serum antibody concentration. However, due to reports that suggest an earlier start to the RSV season than in typical years, for the current apparent RSV season only (2022-2023), providers may administer up to a maximum of 6 doses per child, if the child receives the first dose in October. Monthly doses from October through April will provide protection through May. Palivizumab requires separate authorization for outpatient administration.

Contact HPSM Provider Services department with questions at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

Thank you, the Health Plan of San Mateo