

PHARMACY GUIDELINE – 11

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UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS HEALTH PLANS

(Maricopa Health Plan)

PHARMACY REFERRAL GUIDELINE

SYNAGIS® (Palivizumab) ADMINISTRATION

BACKGROUND:

- A. Synagis® is used to prevent RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), which is a respiratory tract disease found mostly in prematurely born children under the age of two, and certain infants with congenital heart disease (CHD) and/or chronic lung disease (CLD).
- B. The virus season is usually from November through March.

PROCEDURE:

1. UPHP will verify epidemiologically, through information from local health authorities and medical centers, the start of the respiratory virus season.
2. Synagis® requires prior authorization. Indications for Synagis® include:
 - (a) Infants with CLD less than 24 months of age and treated for CLD within six months of the start of the season (supplemental oxygen, diuretics, bronchodilator, or chronic corticosteroid therapy). Will receive a maximum of 5 monthly doses.
 - (b) Infants without CLD in the following groups:
 - < 29 weeks gestation at birth and < 12 months of age at the start of the season. Will receive a maximum of 5 monthly doses.
 - 290-316 weeks gestation at birth and < 6 months of age at the start of the season. Will receive a maximum of 5 monthly doses.
 - 320-346 weeks gestation at birth and < 3 months of age at the start of the season with at least one of the following two risk factors: attendance in child care, one or more children younger than five years living permanently in the same household. Will only receive prophylaxis until they reach 90 days of age or a maximum of 3 doses (whichever comes first).
 - (c) Infants with CHD 24 months of age or younger with hemodynamically significant cyanotic or acyanotic CHD. Those most likely to benefit include those: 1) who are receiving medication to control CHF, 2) with moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension, and 3) cyanotic heart disease. Will receive a maximum of 5 monthly doses.

- (d) Infants with congenital abnormalities of the airway or neuromuscular disease may be considered for a maximum of 5 doses during the first month of life.
 - (e) Other infants at high risk should be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. The Prior Authorization Staff will follow the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement (American Academy of Pediatrics. Summaries of Infectious Diseases, Respiratory Syncytial Virus. Red Book 2009.)

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