

Synagis[®] Dosing and Prior Authorization Processes

RSV Season

The RSV season (peak RSV activity) is of equal duration, despite a varied onset in certain regions of the United States. In recent years, the median duration of the RSV season ranged from 13 to 23 weeks.^{2,3}

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations for Synagis:^{2,3}

- Children who qualify for Synagis prophylaxis for the entire respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season should receive monthly injections only during the five months following the onset of RSV season in their region.
- Benefits for the use of Synagis to prevent complications of RSV infection in defined high risk patients are for a maximum of five doses one month apart. These doses should provide coverage during the peak of the season, when prophylaxis is most effective.
- Infants born during the RSV season who qualify for Synagis need fewer than five doses for protection until the season ends in their region.
- Results from clinical trials indicate that Synagis doses given more than 30 days after the fifth dose are well above the protective concentration for most infants. Therefore, five monthly doses of Synagis provide at least six months of protective serum antibody concentration.

Based on its review of the AAP's recommendations, UnitedHealthcare concludes that in the following scenarios, Synagis is unproven and not medically necessary when administered:

- In excess of five doses per single RSV season
- Out of season
- In doses greater than needed to provide protection in season
- To persons other than those defined as high risk

Prior Authorization Requirements for Synagis

If you have any questions, please call our Pharmacy Prior Authorization Department at 800-310-6826.

To avoid delays, please fax all prior authorization requests to our pharmacy prior authorization department at 866-940-7328.

¹Product information. Synagis[®] (palivizumab). MedImmune, Inc.

²AAP updates guidance on use of palivizumab for RSV prophylaxis (Policy Statement). AAP News 2014; 35:8 1.

³AAP updates guidance on use of palivizumab for RSV prophylaxis (Technical Report). AAP News 2014; 35:8 1.
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