Synagis® Dosing and Prior Authorization Requirements

Synagis is the only monoclonal antibody approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). As an immunoprophylaxis, Synagis can help reduce the risk of RSV-related hospitalizations for high-risk infants and children.

Synagis safety and efficacy has been established for these groups:
- Children with chronic lung disease of prematurity (formerly termed bronchopulmonary dysplasia)
- Infants with a history of premature birth which is less than or equal to 35 weeks gestational age
- Children with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease

RSV Season and Synagis Availability

RSV surveillance data suggests there is a seasonal peak for RSV activity, which typically lasts five months. While this season occurs between November and March for most of the United States, you may expect some variations in Texas.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations for Synagis

- Children who qualify for Synagis prophylaxis for the entire RSV season should receive monthly injections only during those five months.
- Synagis can be used to prevent complications of RSV infection in high-risk patients for a maximum of five doses one month apart. These doses should provide coverage during the peak of the season when the 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 five monthly doses of Synagis will result in serum concentrations at or above protective levels for most infants, well beyond the last dose. Five monthly doses of Synagis provide at least six months of protective serum antibody concentration.

Based the AAP recommendations, UnitedHealthcare concludes that Synagis is unproven and not medically necessary when administered in these situations:
- Outside of the RSV season
- In excess of five doses per season
- In doses greater than needed to provide protection
- To children other than those defined as high risk

Requesting Prior Authorization for Synagis

Prior authorization is required for outpatient Synagis administration. To avoid delays in treatment, please complete and fax the Synagis prior authorization form to our Pharmacy Prior Authorization Department at 866-940-7328. You can find the form at UHCprovider.com > Prior Authorization and Notification > Clinical Pharmacy and Specialty Drugs > Community Plan Pharmacy Prior Authorization Forms.

We’ll review your request according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission’s Synagis criteria, which you can find at txvendordrug.com > Formulary > Prior Authorization > Synagis.

We will notify you by fax of our authorization decision. If your request is approved, we’ll coordinate Synagis delivery through our contracted specialty pharmacy provider, BriovaRx.

We’re Here to Help

If you have questions about Synagis delivery, please contact BriovaRx at 855-427-4682.

If you have questions about Synagis or the prior authorization process, please call our Pharmacy Prior Authorization Department at 800-310-6826.