



Synagis Policy Update

There have been changes made to the coverage criteria for the 2009-2010 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season that follows the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for RSV. A copy of the Synagis® (palivizumab) policy may be found on our web site at www.bcbsal.org/providers/policies/index.cfm.

In order to expedite payment for these claims, we have the predetermination process in place. Any claims that are not predetermined prior to the service being rendered will be reviewed with medical records.

The [Synagis Authorization Request Form](#) can be found on our web site at www.bcbsal.com. You may fax a completed form and/or clinic notes for review to 205-220-9560 or mail to the following:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
Medical Review Predetermination
PO Box 362025
Birmingham, Alabama 35236

Fax: 205-220-9560

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama will notify the member and the physician of coverage determination.

Policy: Effective for dates of service on or after September 24, 2009: Synagis, for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in pediatric patients at high-risk of RSV disease, meets Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama's medical criteria for coverage when the following criteria are met:

1. Infants and children < 24 months of age at initiation of therapy with chronic lung disease (CLD) who required medical therapy for CLD within 6 months of the RSV season.
2. Infants born ≤ 28 weeks gestation and are ≤ 12 months chronological age at the start of the RSV season.
3. Infants born at 29-32 weeks gestation and are ≤ 6 months chronological age at the start of the RSV season.
4. Infants born at 32 to < 35 weeks gestation and are ≤ 3 months chronological age at the start of the RSV season or are born during the RSV season and have at least 1 risk factor, such as child care attendance or a sibling < age 5 years. These infants should receive a maximum of 3 monthly doses up until they reach age 3 months.
5. Children with cystic fibrosis with pulmonary complications.
6. Infants born < 35 weeks gestation with congenital abnormalities of the airway or neuromuscular disease.
7. Infants and children ≤ 24 months of age with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease.
8. Infants and children with severe immunodeficiencies, such as severe combined immunodeficiency or advanced acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

Once an infant or child qualifies for initiation of prophylaxis at the start of the RSV season, administration should continue throughout the season until the patient receives a maximum of five monthly doses, except as noted above in number four.

Important Information

The following disclaimer is applicable to all telephone inquiries and automated communications systems (i.e., InfoSolutions®, telephone, and fax) to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama:

The information provided is only general benefit information and is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits are always subject to the terms and limitations of the plan and no employee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has authority to enlarge or expand the terms of the plan. The availability of benefits is always conditioned upon the patient's coverage and the existence of a contract for plan benefits as of the date of service. A loss of coverage, as well as contract termination, can occur under certain circumstances. There will be no benefits available if such circumstances occur.

Note: Please refer to our web site, www.bcbsal.com, for the most current benefit and policy information.