

October 1, 2011



Dear Colorado Access Provider:

We have created the enclosed materials to assist you with identifying infants at high-risk for RSV and obtaining treatment with Synagis for **Colorado Access CHP+** and **CHP+ State Managed Care Network** members. Information provided includes Colorado Access' criteria for Synagis coverage, prior authorization form, and the process for obtaining authorization for Synagis for our members.

This year's RSV infection season will begin on **November 1, 2011** and end on **March 31, 2012** for Colorado Access members. We will again follow the 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for approval and dosing duration. In high-risk populations, monthly Synagis injections should be initiated at the onset of the RSV season and terminated at the end of the RSV season, up to a maximum of 5 doses during the 6 month season.

Synagis treatment for Colorado Access members requires prior authorization providing gestational age at birth, current treatment for CLD, or documentation supporting the request for medical necessity of Synagis. If Synagis treatment is needed during an inpatient stay, a separate authorization is required in order for the facility to be reimbursed for treatment.

Synagis Prior Authorization Criteria:

1. **Any infant or child under two (2) years of age with a diagnosis of Chronic Lung Disease (CLD) of prematurity (defined as gestational age less than 35 weeks) who meets the following:**
 - Having one or more of the following clinical needs within six months before the start of RSV season or who continue to require therapy:
 - Supplemental oxygen
 - Regular use of inhaled or oral bronchodilators
 - Chronic corticosteroid therapy
 - Regular or intermittent use of diuretics to treat pulmonary disease
2. **Any infant or child under two (2) years of age who have a Diagnosis of Congenital Heart Disease or hemodynamically significant heart disease and meets any of the following criteria:**
 - Are receiving medication to control congestive heart failure (diuretics, antihypertensives, anticoagulants, supplemental oxygen)
 - Suffer of moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension
 - Suffer with Cyanotic Heart Disease with no or incomplete surgical correction of defect
3. **Any infant up to 6 months of age, born at 29 weeks to less than 32 weeks gestation.**
4. **Any infant up to 12 months of age, born at 28 weeks or less gestation.**
5. **Any infant less than 3 months of age at the start of RSV season or born during the RSV season, with a gestational age of 32 to less than 35 weeks and meets one of the following risk factors:**
 - Currently attends day care
 - Has a sibling younger than 5 years of age
6. **Infants up to 12 months of age with a gestational age of less than 35 weeks with one of the following risk factors:**
 - Congenital abnormalities of the airway
 - A neuromuscular condition that compromises handling of respiratory secretions

Note: The following groups are not at increased risk from RSV and do NOT require immunoprophylaxis:

- Infant and children with hemodynamically insignificant heart disease (ex. Secundum atrial septal defects, small ventricular septal defects, pulmonic stenosis, uncomplicated aortic stenosis, mild coarctation of the aorta, patent ductus arteriosus)
- Infants with lesions adequately corrected by surgery unless continued medication therapy is required for congestive heart failure
- Infants with mild cardiomyopathy not receiving medical therapy

*See guideline for definition of Chronic Lung Disease/Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia

Please find attached a step-by-step guide for obtaining an authorization for Synagis for Colorado Access CHP+ and State Managed Care Network members.

If you have questions regarding the authorization process, please call Pharmacy Services at 303-751-9005 or 1-800-511-5010.

Sincerely,
Irene Girgis, PharmD
Director of Pharmacy Services

September 2011