

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) trends Synagis prophylaxis

Synagis® is a monoclonal antibody given as a monthly injection to help prevent serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Immunoprophylaxis with *Synagis* during the high-risk RSV season can help reduce the risk of RSV-related hospitalizations for high-risk infants and children.

The safety and efficacy of *Synagis*¹ have been established for infants in the following groups:

- Born prematurely (at or before 35 weeks gestation) and who are 6 months of age or less at the beginning of RSV season
- Children with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) who needed medical treatment within the previous 6 months and who are 24 months of age or less at the beginning of RSV season
- Children with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease who are 24 months of age or less at the beginning of RSV season

Those at highest risk for severe respiratory tract disease from RSV include infants born prematurely (born before 29 weeks gestation) and infants/young children with an underlying medical condition including chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, congenital abnormalities of the airway/neuromuscular disease, and a weakened immune system.

Routine RSV surveillance data suggests a seasonal peak for RSV activity, typically between November and March for most of the United States. The onset may vary in some regions of the country, but the duration in all areas is 5 months.

However, there has been elevated inter-seasonal RSV activity this year, both locally and nationally. The rising rates over the last few months have prompted a **health advisory** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has also stated **Interim Guidance**.

In light of the RSV polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and antigen testing positivity rates consistent with RSV seasons as per AAP-advised IDSA criteria, **UnitedHealthcare Community Plan has authorized coverage of *Synagis* for clinically appropriate populations beginning Aug. 1, 2021.**

We will monitor trends in RSV rates to confirm the appropriate duration of the RSV season in this atypical year.

Requesting prior authorization for *Synagis*

Complete a ***Synagis* respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) enrollment form** and fax it to our Pharmacy Prior Authorization department at **866-940-7328**.