



MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT		
Original Effective Date	Next Annual Review Date	Last Review / Revision Date
09/30/2005	07/30/2017	10/04/2016
Policy Name		Policy Number
Palivizumab (Synagis)		SRx-0033
Policy Type		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

For Medicare plans please reference the below link to search for Applicable National Coverage Descriptions (NCD) and Local Coverage Descriptions (LCD):

#### A. SUBJECT

Palivizumab (Synagis)

#### B. BACKGROUND

Synagis is a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) F protein inhibitor monoclonal antibody indicated for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in children at high risk of RSV disease.

The intent of CareSource Pharmacy Policy Statements is to encourage appropriate selection of patients for therapy according to product labeling, clinical guidelines, and/or clinical studies as well as to encourage use of preferred agents. The CareSource Pharmacy Policy Statement is a guideline for determining health care coverage for our patients with benefit plans covering prescription drugs. Pharmacy Policy Statements are written on selected prescription drugs requiring prior authorization or step therapy. The Pharmacy Policy Statement is used as a tool to be interpreted in conjunction with the member's specific benefit plan.

#### C. DEFINITIONS

N/A

#### D. POLICY

CareSource follows the American Academy of Pediatrics Red Book Guidelines for Synagis and applies these guidelines to **ALL** requests for prior authorization of Synagis.



- I. CareSource may reimburse for up to 5 injections of Synagis during the respiratory virus season for one of the following:
  - A. Infants born before 29 weeks, 0 days gestation AND who are less than 12 months of age as of the beginning of respiratory virus (RSV) season.
  - B. Children who are younger than 12 months at the beginning of respiratory virus season who have either congenital abnormalities of the airways or a neuromuscular disorder that compromises handling of respiratory secretions from the respiratory tract.
  - C. Children who are younger than 12 months of age with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease: those with cyanotic heart disease, receiving medication for heart failure and will require cardiac surgical procedures AND/OR have moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension.
  - D. Infants born before gestational age 32 weeks, 0 days and have Chronic Lung Disease of Prematurity, defined as a requirement for >21% oxygen for the first 28 days after birth and are less than 12 months of age at the beginning of respiratory virus season.
  - E. Children who are less than 24 months of age who have Chronic Lung Disease of Prematurity, defined as a requirement for >21% oxygen for the first 28 days after birth and continue to require medical support (chronic corticosteroid therapy, diuretic therapy, or supplemental oxygen) during the 6-month period before the start of the second RSV season.
  - F. Children younger than 24 months of age who are profoundly immunocompromised during the RSV season may be considered for palivizumab prophylaxis.
- II. Initiation of injections should be timed with the onset of laboratory confirmed cases of RSV activity in the community, no earlier than November 1, 2016
- III. Routine prophylaxis for children with cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, or previously infected with RSV in the current season is not recommended or covered.

**NOTE:** Documented diagnosis must be confirmed by contemporaneous portions of the individual's medical record which will confirm the presence of disease and will need to be supplied with prior authorization request. These medical records may include, but are not limited to test reports, chart notes from provider's office or hospital admission notes.

**Refer to product package insert for dosing, administration and safety guidelines.**

**All other uses of Synagis are considered experimental/investigational and therefore, will follow CareSource's Off-Label policy.**

#### **CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE**

##### **PLACE OF SERVICE**

Office, Outpatient, Home

**\*\*Preferred place of service is in the home**

**Note:** The decision on the most appropriate setting for administration is based on the member's current medical condition and any required monitoring or additional services that may coincide with the delivery of the specific medication.

**HCPCS** See Policy Above

**CPT The medical billing code for the Synagis medication is 90378.**

Use CPT code G0154 for home nursing visits for Synagis administered in the member's home (home nursing visit for IM injection). Home nursing visits DO NOT require prior authorization for participating providers.

#### **AUTHORIZATION PERIOD**

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Coverage may be approved for up to 5 doses, November through March. Consistent with epidemiologic findings, CareSource considers "RSV season" to be November 1 through March 31 (unless season is extended later by the state). If a provider requests that dosing begin prior to November 1, they may submit evidence for earlier administration. A maximum of 5 doses will be authorized for the RSV season in accordance with Red Book guidelines.

#### **IV. RELATED POLICIES/RULES**

#### **V. REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY**

Date Issued: 09/30/2005  
Date Reviewed: 09/30/2005, 09/30/2006, 08/30/2007, 07/30/2008, 10/30/2009,  
09/30/2010, 08/30/2011, 09/30/2012, 08/30/2013, 07/30/2014  
Date Revised: 08/30/2007, 07/30/2008, 10/30/2009, 09/30/2010, 08/30/2011,  
09/30/2012, 08/30/2013  
07/30/2014 – Guidelines Revised  
10/04/2016 – Annual Review

#### **VI. REFERENCES**

1. Palivizumab (Synagis) [prescribing information]. MedImmune, LLC, Gathersburg, MD: March 2014.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Updates Guidance on the Use of palivizumab for RSV Prophylaxis, Allan S. Lieberthal and H. Cody Meissner, AAP News 2014;35;1, DOI: 10.1542/aapnews.2014358-1, 2014

This guideline contains custom content that has been modified from the standard care guidelines and has not been reviewed or approved by MCG Health, LLC.

**The medical Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Medical Policy Statement Policy and is approved.**