



New York State Medicaid Guidelines for Palivizumab (Synagis®) Effective 10/16/11

Palivizumab is an intramuscular injection used as prophylaxis for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). It is used in certain high-risk infants and children with histories of prematurity (35 weeks or less), chronic lung disease (CLD), or congenital heart disease. RSV is a leading cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in infants. Palivizumab is usually administered in five monthly doses throughout the RSV season, typically beginning in November or December. Palivizumab should not be used for the treatment of established RSV disease.

The following guidelines include the major points used to identify infants and children who should be considered for RSV prophylaxis. These guidelines have been adapted from the evidence-based recommendations for the prevention of RSV with palivizumab in children less than two years of age published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

GROUP AT RISK	CHRONOLOGICAL AGE LIMITS AND ADDITIONAL CRITERIA	SEASONAL DOSE LIMITS
Chronic Lung Disease of Prematurity requiring treatment within 6 months before start of RSV season	Under 24 months of age at RSV season onset	5 doses per season limit
Hemodynamically significant cyanotic or acyanotic Congenital Heart Disease	24 months of age or younger at RSV season onset	5 doses per season limit
GA ≤ 28 weeks 6 days	Under 12 months of age at RSV season onset	5 doses per season limit
GA 29 weeks 0 days through 31 weeks 6 days	Under 6 months of age at RSV season onset	5 doses per season limit
GA 32 weeks 0 days through 35 weeks 6 days	Under 6 months of age at RSV season onset and meets at least 1 of 2 risk factors: 1. Infant attends childcare/daycare 2. At least one sibling or other child under age 5 years lives permanently in subject's household	5 doses per season limit
Infants born before 35 weeks of gestation with significant congenital airway abnormalities or neuromuscular condition that compromises handling of respiratory tract secretions	Under 12 months of age at RSV season onset	5 doses per season limit

References:

Committee on Infectious Diseases. Modified recommendations for use of Palivizumab for prevention of respiratory syncytial virus infections. *Pediatrics*. 2009 Dec; 124 (6): 1694-1701. Krilov LR, Weiner LB, Yogev R, Fergie J, Katz BZ, Henrickson KJ, and Welliver Sr, RC. The 2009 COID recommendations for RSV Prophylaxis: Issues of efficacy, cost and evidence-based medicine. *Pediatrics*. 2009 Dec; 124 (6):1682-1684. Law BJ, MacDonald N, Langley J, Mitchell I, Stephens D, Wang EEL, Robinson J, Boucher F., McDonald J, Dobson S. Severe respiratory syncytial virus infection among otherwise healthy prematurely born infants: What are we trying to prevent? *Paediatrics and Child Health*. 1998 Nov/Dec; 3(6): 402-404.