



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 7, 2021

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

FROM: Tara A. LeBlanc, Interim Medicaid Executive Director *Tara A. LeBlanc*

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Palivizumab (Synagis®) Coverage

For Louisiana, the typical RSV season begins November 1 and lasts through March 31. Based on expert opinion and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) data, a decision was made to allow palivizumab dosing outside the usual RSV season beginning July 15, 2021. This special allowance may end earlier if an end date is confirmed by CDC NREVSS virology data.

Palivizumab is indicated for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract infection caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in selected infants and young children at high risk of RSV disease. Monthly prophylaxis should be discontinued in any infant receiving monthly palivizumab prophylaxis who experiences a breakthrough RSV hospitalization.

All prescriptions for palivizumab require clinical authorization. Prescribing providers, not the pharmacy, manufacturer or any other third party entity, must complete the Palivizumab Clinical Authorization Form and fax it directly to the recipient's plan. The updated form and criteria will be posted on the Single preferred drug list.