



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

March 16, 2010

RE: Updated Criteria for Reimbursement of Palivizumab (Synagis®)

Dear Prescribing Practitioner:

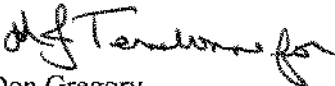
The Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management (LMPBM) Program sent correspondence to you in September 2009 regarding reimbursement criteria for palivizumab. A copy of this correspondence is available at [http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Pharmacy/Presc\\_Ltr\\_09\\_2.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Pharmacy/Presc_Ltr_09_2.pdf). These criteria were implemented in concert with the Louisiana Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As noted in the initial correspondence, a recipient requiring immunoprophylaxis with palivizumab should receive their final dose by March 31, 2010. Doses given after March 31, 2010, are considered beyond the RSV season and will deny, per established LMPBM policy.

In the rare instance when palivizumab is prescribed beyond the RSV season, a handwritten prescription for palivizumab will be required. The prescription must include both justification for use and appropriate ICD-9-CM code(s) also handwritten by the prescriber. This justification should address the current DUR criteria related to diagnosis, age, RSV season, and/or maximum number of doses allowed and explain why the palivizumab is medically necessary. Pharmacies will be required to submit paper claims to Louisiana Medicaid for palivizumab reimbursement. Therefore, dispensing pharmacists may be contacting you for information necessary to complete the paper claim.

The LMPBM Program continually audits providers for adherence to program policy. These audits may include requests for prescriber and/or pharmacy records of recipients receiving palivizumab. If you have any concerns or comments regarding this correspondence, you may contact Melwyn B. Wendt at 225-342-9768 or send a fax to 225-342-1980. Your continued cooperation and support of the LMPBM Program are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Don Gregory  
Interim Medicaid Director

DG/MJT/mbw