

John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR



Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and ^{DS}Pharmacists

FROM: Tara A. LeBlanc, Medicaid Executive Director

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Palivizumab (Synagis®) Coverage for Off Season and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Season

Effective July 1, 2022, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will expand palivizumab (Synagis®) coverage. For Louisiana, the typical respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season begins November 1st and lasts through March 31st. Based on expert opinion and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 1, 2022. For eligible recipients who meet current approval criteria, the expanded coverage will include pharmacy claims for palivizumab (Synagis®) submitted at Point of Sale (POS) during the off season (July 2022-October 2022) as well as the RSV Season (November 2022-March 2023). The coverage applies to pharmacy claims submitted to FFS and Louisiana Medicaid MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and United Healthcare).

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 (PDL) at the following link:

<https://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/PDL.pdf>

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If you have questions about the content of this memo, you may contact the FFS pharmacy help desk by phone at (800) 437-9101.

If you have questions about pharmacy claims billing, you may contact the appropriate plan at their pharmacy help desk listed in the chart below.

Healthcare Provider	Pharmacy Help Desk	Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Number
Aetna	CVS Health	(855) 364-2977
AmeriHealth Caritas	PerformRx	(800) 684-5502
Fee for Service	DXC Technology	(800) 648-0790
Healthy Blue	CVS	(833) 236-6194
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	CVS Caremark	(800) 311-0543
UnitedHealthcare	Optum Rx	(866) 328-3108

Please forward this notice to other providers to assist with notification. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts to coordinate care and improve health are greatly appreciated.

TL/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
Melwyn B. Wendt
Gainwell Technologies