



Georgia Fee-For-Service Medicaid Synagis® Policy for RSV Season 2014 – 2015

The Georgia Department of Community Health (GDCH) provides this policy for Synagis® (palivizumab) prophylaxis for its Fee-For-Service (FFS) members during the 2014-2015 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season. The policy is centered on the 2014 recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the 2014-2015 recommendations by the Georgia Chapter of the AAP (GAAAP). Based on the review of data on the seasonality of RSV, palivizumab pharmacokinetics, changing incidence of bronchiolitis hospitalizations, effect of gestational age and other risk factors on RSV hospitalization rates, mortality of children hospitalized with RSV infection, effect of wheezing, and palivizumab-resistant RSV isolates, the AAP/GAAAP recommendations are driven by the limited clinical benefit derived from palivizumab prophylaxis. The GDCH policy is as follows:

- According to AAP/GAAAP, in general, up to five doses are sufficient to provide protection throughout the RSV season since five monthly doses will provide more than 6 months (>24 weeks) of serum concentrations. A maximum of up to 5 doses will be allowed for the following members:
 - Preterm infants <29 weeks' gestation who are <12 months of age.
 - Preterm infants <12 months of age with chronic lung disease (CLD) of prematurity (<32 weeks' gestation) who required >21% oxygen therapy during the first 28 days of life. Prophylaxis will be allowed for these members during the 2nd year of life if they required medical support during the 6-month period before the RSV season.
 - Infants <12 months of age with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease (CHD) who are acyanotic receiving medication to control congestive heart failure (CHF) and will require cardiac surgical procedures or have moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension or have cyanotic heart defects and the decision regarding RSV prophylaxis was made in consultation with a pediatric cardiologist.
 - Infants <12 months of age with pulmonary abnormality or neuromuscular disease that impairs ability to clear secretions from the upper airways.
 - Children <24 months of age who are profoundly immunocompromised.
- Dosing will not be allowed for infants with active infection or history of infection during the current season.
- High-risk infants discharged from the hospital in February should receive a February and a March dose. High-risk infants discharged from the hospital in March should receive a March dose. High-risk infants born during the RSV season should receive dose in the hospital 48-72 hours prior to discharge.
- Only prescribers are allowed to submit requests for Synagis®. Stamped or copied physician signatures will not be accepted.

Based on RSV surveillance data, the RSV season in Georgia is typically October through March. Thus, GDCH will allow RSV prophylaxis therapy of up to 5 doses with palivizumab beginning October 1, 2014 and ending March 3, 2015. If the season extends into March, dosing exceptions past March 3rd through March 31st will be allowed for high-risk infants discharged from the hospital in February as well as in March who do not receive the March dose in the hospital. Please see the attached table for the maximum number of palivizumab doses. We will continuously monitor the start and end of the 2014-2015 RSV season. Please check back for any changes or updates.

For Georgia Medicaid FFS members, Synagis® prior authorizations (PA) through Pharmacy Services must be faxed to Catamaran at 1-888-491-9742 using the Synagis® PA Request Form located at <http://dch.georgia.gov/prior-authorization-process-and-criteria>. For Synagis® prior authorizations through Physician Services, please go to <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov>.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Community Health

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Policy Statement: Updated guidelines for palivizumab prophylaxis among infants and young children at increased risk of hospitalization for respiratory syncytial virus infection. *Pediatrics* 2014;134(2):415-20. Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/2/415.full>.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. Technical Report: Updated guidelines for palivizumab prophylaxis among infants and young children at increased risk of hospitalization for respiratory syncytial virus infection. *Pediatrics* 2014;134(2):e620-38. Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/2/e620.full>.
3. Georgia Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics. Blastfax: 2014-2015 RSV Recommendations. Available at www.gaaap.org.
4. Georgia Division of Public Health. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Surveillance in Georgia. Available at <http://dph.georgia.gov/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html>.



Maximum Number of Prophylaxis Palivizumab Doses for Preterm Infants RSV Season 2014-2015

Month of First Dose ^a	Maximum Number of Doses ^b				
	<29 weeks' gestation and <12 months of age at time of first injection	<12 months of age with CLD of prematurity (<32 weeks' gestation) who required >21% oxygen therapy during first 28 days of life and <24 months of age with CLD of prematurity (<32 weeks' gestation) who required >21% oxygen therapy during first 28 days of life and continue to require medical support within 6 months at time of first injection	<12 months of age with hemodynamically significant CHD who are acyanotic receiving medication for CHF and will require cardiac surgery or who have moderate to severe hypertension or have cyanotic heart defects in consultation with a pediatric cardiologist at time of first injection	<12 months of age with pulmonary abnormality or neuromuscular disease that impairs ability to clear secretions from upper airways at time of first injection	<24 months of age who are profoundly immunocompromised at time of first injection
October 2014	5	5	5	5	5
November 2014	4	4	4	4	4
December 2014	3	3	3	3	3
January 2015	2	2	2	2	2
February 2015 ^c	2	2	2	2	2
March 2015 ^d	1	1	1	1	1

Adapted from the American Academy of Pediatrics 2014 recommendations and the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics 2014-2015 recommendations.

^aMonth of first dose from October 1, 2014-March 3, 2015. If the season extends into March, dosing exceptions past March 3rd through March 31st will be allowed for high-risk infants discharged from the hospital in February as well as in March who do not receive the March dose in the hospital. ^bIf the first dose was given at the hospital, subtract 1 dose from the number of maximum doses allowed depending on when the request to start Synagis.

^cApplies to high-risk infants discharged from the hospital in February only: High-risk infants discharged from the hospital in February should receive a February dose and a March dose. The February dose should be received in the hospital 48-72 hours prior to discharge.

^dApplies to high-risk infants discharged from the hospital in March only: High-risk infants discharged from the hospital in March should receive a March dose. The March dose should be received in the hospital 48-72 hours prior to discharge.

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Policy Statement: Updated guidelines for palivizumab prophylaxis among infants and young children at increased risk of hospitalization for respiratory syncytial virus infection. *Pediatrics* 2014;134(2):415-20. Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/2/415.full>.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. Technical Report: Updated guidelines for palivizumab prophylaxis among infants and young children at increased risk of hospitalization for respiratory syncytial virus infection. *Pediatrics* 2014;134(2):e620-38. Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/2/e620.full>.
3. Georgia Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics. Blastfax: 2014-2015 RSV Recommendations. Available at www.gaaap.org.
4. Georgia Division of Public Health. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Surveillance in Georgia. Available at <http://dph.georgia.gov/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html>.