

## Notice to Providers: RSV Prophylaxis for 2010-2011 Season

October 25, 2010

Dear Providers:

RSV season is upon us. We would like to notify you of procedures for the 2010-2011 RSV season (November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011).

- ❖ Synagis® (palivizumab) will to be processed through Catalyst Rx, our pharmacy benefit manager. Catalyst Rx **will use Walgreen's Specialty to supply Synagis®**. Walgreen's Specialty will call your offices to coordinate dosing and delivery of Synagis® once a request is approved by Catalyst Rx.

In the past, the Upper Peninsula Health Plan (UPHP) has taken our criteria from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Red Book. We had been using the most recent version: "AAP 2006 Red Book Recommendations for the Prevention of RSV" until last year. The AAP updated its recommendations for immunoprophylaxis with Synagis® in the 2009 Red Book\*. Among the changes were new recommendations for infants born at 32 weeks, to less than 35 weeks, gestation (32 weeks, 0 days through 34 weeks, 6 days). Although the Red Book is recognized as a standard of care guideline and the credentials of AAP committee members are significant, the UPHP Pharmacy Clinical Advisory Committee (PCAC) and UPHP Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) could not unanimously support some of the more significant changes in the 2009 recommendations. Therefore, as was the case last year, UPHP will allow variance from the 2009 guidelines if requested by the practitioner.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have recently formed a working group whose goal is to evaluate the currently available information, necessary to make recommendations for the use of palivizumab among infants 32 to < 35 weeks gestation. Their work is planned to be completed by the end, but not the beginning, of the 2010-2011 RSV season.

Information regarding prior authorization for the 2010-2011 season is as follows:

- ❖ The Synagis Prior Authorization form is available along with this notice at [www.uphp.com/Pharmacy](http://www.uphp.com/Pharmacy). It utilizes the 2009 guideline.
- ❖ As was the case last year, coverage of up to five doses and coverage for infants younger than 6 months of age at the start of the RSV season will be allowed when one of the two noted risk factors is present.
- ❖ A provider wishing to follow the 2006 guideline for infants born at 32 weeks, to less than 35 weeks, gestation (32 weeks, 0 days through 34 weeks, 6 days) may do so by indicating refills for 5 months and noting the infant is younger than 6 months of age at the start of the RSV season on the form.
- ❖ A MAXIMUM OF FIVE DOSES will be allowed per recipient within the time frame of the RSV season (November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011). If a dose was administered in the inpatient setting, the date the dose was administered must be included on the request form.

\*Red Book 2009, Section 3. Summaries of Infectious Diseases, Respiratory Syncytial Virus

**Additionally, here are a few key points to remember.**

- ❖ You may bill ONLY for the RSV administration through the medical benefit. Billing for Synagis® is processed through the pharmacy benefit directly to us from Walgreen's Specialty through Catalyst Rx.
- ❖ All Synagis® injections require prior authorization. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.
- ❖ Prior authorization is needed even if the child has a primary insurance other than UPHP.

If you have questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,  
UPHP Pharmacy Department