



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Pediatricians
Specialty Pharmacy Providers

From: Tuong Anh Nguyen, M.S.Pharm., P.D., Clinical Pharmacist, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

Subject: 2009 RSV Season in Maryland & Handling of Synagis Clinical and Service Prior-Authorizations

Date: October 5, 2009

This memorandum is to inform providers of the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program's (MMPP) policy changes on the coverage of Synagis for passive immunoprophylaxis for protection of high-risk infants and children against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract infection.

For the 2009-2010 RSV season, MMPP has adopted the new 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for RSV immunoprophylaxis. Detailed recommendations are discussed in the 2009 Red Book (pages 562-568) and in the AAP policy statement published in Pediatrics. Pediatricians who normally prescribe Synagis are encouraged to become familiar with the new AAP guidelines.

Attached is the revised Prescriber Statement of Medical Necessity- Synagis Prior-Auth Form that reflects the AAP guideline changes. The form should be completed and signed by the pediatrician and faxed to MMPP at **410-333-5398** along with a copy of the patient's hospital discharge summary which includes information about the patient's gestational age and medical diagnoses that support the need for immunoprophylaxis. Both the pediatrician and pharmacy provider will be notified of the approval of immuno-prophylaxis for the recommended duration of prophylaxis. The medical office must contact the specialty pharmacy for the ordering and delivery of Synagis to the office. Once the drug is approved, each month, the nurse or medical staff must complete the Synagis Service Prior-Auth Form to document the infant or child's most recent body weight based on which the approximate dose is estimated and the corresponding number of Synagis vials approved. The pharmacy biller must submit the Synagis claim electronically to the MMPP pharmacy Point-of-Sale (POS) claims processor to obtain a system denial. Subsequently, the biller must call MMPP at **410-767-1455** to obtain the necessary POS

edit overrides for claim adjudication. **Synagis may be billed and shipped as early as Oct 23, 2009 but administration of the drug should not start until Nov 1, 2009 and should end by Mar 31, 09.**

Starting October 23rd, 2009, the Program will begin accepting the Prescriber’s Statement of Medical Necessity for Synagis via facsimile. Providers should not submit the Synagis request prior to October 23rd, since the recipient may possibly be transferred from Fee-for-service (FFS) to managed care, in which case, the prior-authorization request must be directed to the specific Managed Care Organization (MCO) that the recipient is enrolled in for processing. Recipients enrolled in the Rare and Expensive Management (REM) program will not have to join a MCO. Thus, requests for Synagis for the REM recipients will be accepted for processing prior to October 23rd, but the drug should not be billed and shipped out until October 23rd, a week before November 1st, when the injection can be administered to the recipient. Providers must verify recipient’s eligibility in FFS by calling the Eligibility Verification Automated System at 1-866-710-1447 (24 hrs/7 days) before submitting their requests for prior-authorization for Synagis to MMPP. Requests for prior-authorization for recipients enrolled in a MCO should be directed to specific MCO that the recipient is enrolled in. Below is a list of Hot Line phone numbers for the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) that handle drug prior-authorization for the seven participating Maryland Medicaid MCOs:

PRIOR-AUTH HOT LINE PHONE NUMBERS FOR MARYLAND MEDICAID PARTICIPATING MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS’ PBMs

Managed Care Organization	Pharmacy Benefit Manager	Pharmacy Benefit Managers’ Phone Number
AMERIGROUP Community Care	Caremark, Inc	1-800-345-5413
Diamond Plan from Coventry HC	Caremark, Inc.	1-800-345-5413
Jai Medical Systems	Bioscrip	1-800-213-5640
Maryland Physicians Care	Express Scripts, Inc.	1-800-235-4357
Medstar Family Choice	Caremark, Inc	1-800-345-5413
Priority Partners	Caremark, Inc	1-800-345-5413
UnitedHealthcare	CVS Caremark	1-800-952-4065

It should be noted that the major AAP guideline changes involve infants who are born at 32 weeks, 0 days to 34 weeks, 6 days, with 1 or 2 risk factors (child attending child care or has a sibling younger than 5 years old) and who may receive a maximum of 3 doses, until they reach 3 months of age. The eligibility criteria for prophylaxis of infants with chronic lung disease of prematurity and hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease and those infants with birth before 32 weeks’ gestation remain unchanged. For children in these categories, the updated recommendations state that the first dose of Synagis should be administered during the first week of November, and the fifth and/or last dose should be administered in March.

Once the recipient is approved for Synagis, the drug will be covered for the duration of time as per AAP guidelines. Should the prescriber feel that the infant who was denied Synagis, has extenuating co-morbidity and severe risks for complications due to RSV which justify initiation of prophylaxis, a recommendation letter by a pulmonologist or cardiologist should be faxed to the Program for reconsideration on a case-per-case basis.

Questions pertaining to prior-authorizations of Synagis may be directed to the DHMH Clinical Pharmacist at 410-767-1455.

cc. Charles Sandler, P.D., Division Chief, MMPP
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Andrea Pope, P.D., Pharmacist III, MMPP
Amy Mize, R.Ph., Clinical Pharmacy Manager, AMERIGROUP Community Care
Megan Scantlan, Pharmacy Department Specialist, Diamond Plan from Coventry Health Care
Amanda Saunders, Director of Pharmacy Benefits, Jai Medical Systems
Nina Everett, M.D., Medical Director, Maryland Physicians Care
Patryce Toye, M.D., Medical Director, MedStar Family Choice
Hugh Fatodu, R.Ph., Director of Pharmacy, Priority Partners
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