



4350 E. Cotton Center Boulevard
Building D
Phoenix, Arizona 85040
Phone (602) 263-3000
Toll Free (800) 624-3879

Dear Pediatric Physician:

In preparation for the upcoming RSV season we would like to take this opportunity to answer some common questions regarding our approval guidelines for consideration of Synagis[®]. These guidelines are based on the 2009 AAP Red Book. Please note that the AAP Red Book has changed the RSV criteria in 2009. RSV season typically begins in October and continues through March of the following year. The AAP recommends a maximum of 5 doses in the RSV season, and some children will receive less than 5 doses.

Please note that Synagis[®] does not completely prevent RSV disease but has been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization attributed to RSV lower respiratory tract disease. Please continue to encourage all of your families with young children to practice good hygiene, avoid crowds during the winter season, and to obtain all of the recommended immunizations, including influenza.

What criteria does Mercy Care Plan use to approve Synagis[®]?

The infant must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Children with chronic lung disease (e.g. bronchopulmonary dysplasia) requiring medical therapy (oxygen, bronchodilators, diuretics, or corticosteroids) within the last 6 months and less than 24 months old at the start of the RSV season. Maximum of 5 doses. Family should be educated about ways to reduce exposure, thorough handwashing, good hygiene, and avoiding crowded places.
2. Children with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease (CHD), who are ≤ 24 months of age at start of RSV season. Maximum of 5 doses. Family should be educated about ways to reduce exposure, thorough handwashing, good hygiene, and avoiding crowded places.
3. Infants born at ≤ 28 weeks gestation and less than 12 months old at the start of the RSV season. Maximum of 5 doses. Family should be educated about ways to reduce exposure, thorough handwashing, good hygiene, and avoiding crowded places.
4. Infants born at 29 to 32 weeks gestation. And less than 6 months old at the start of the RSV season. Maximum of 5 doses. Family should be educated about ways to reduce exposure, thorough handwashing, good hygiene, and avoiding crowded places.
5. Infants < 3 months old at the start of RSV season, born between 32 and 35 weeks gestation (i.e. between 32 weeks, 1 day and 34 weeks, 6 days) considered on a case-by-case basis, based on 1 or more of the following DOCUMENTED risk factors:
 - a) Child care attendance (by the infant)
 - b) sibling < 5 years of age

Once the infant born between 32-35 weeks gestation is 90d of age, Synagis is not recommended, because the risk of hospitalization attributable to severe RSV lower tract disease is reduced.

What information must be included with a request?

1. Documentation of prematurity, including gestational age.
2. Documentation of chronic lung disease (e.g. bronchopulmonary dysplasia) and ongoing medical treatment over the past 6 months.
3. Documentation of congenital heart disease and ongoing medical treatment over the past 6 months. Please include the type of cardiac defect.
4. Please utilize THE MERCY CARE PLAN Synagis Prior Authorization form (ATTACHED)
5. A completed Synagis Prior Authorization Form (can be found on the Mercy Care Plan website: [http://www.mercycareplan.com/provider/forms/Synagis Authorization Form.pdf](http://www.mercycareplan.com/provider/forms/Synagis%20Authorization%20Form.pdf) form documenting that the infant meets one of the above criteria.

Where do requests for Synagis® go?

- The ordering physician should fax the authorization form to: **Mercy Care Plan at 602-431-7234**
(please note faxing your request directly to Los Ninos may result in delay of care)

Where do members go to receive Synagis?

- Mercy Care Plan is partnering with **Los Ninos** this year for the administration of Synagis. Once approved, please send your member to one of locations listed below:

**Phoenix: 2601 East Thomas Road
Suite 115
Phoenix, 85053**

**Gilbert: 1400 East Gilbert Road
Suite N
Gilbert, 85234**

**Tucson: 6632 East Carondelet
Tucson, 85710**

**Flagstaff: 1016 West University
Suite 106
Flagstaff, 86001**

Prescott: To be announced

**Main Office Number: 602-424-4146
Fax: 602-424-2149**

Thank you for your participation and for the quality care you provide to our members.

Medical Services

Reference:

American Academy of Pediatrics. Respiratory Syncytial Virus. In: Pickering LK, ed. *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 26th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2009:560-569. Available at: <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/2009/1/3.110>. Accessed July 7, 2009.