
State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

March 1, 2021

****Attention Provider ****

Important Update on Synagis (palivizumab) Dispensing

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), in coordination with their Pharmacy Benefits Manager Change Healthcare, reviews data from the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) to track the epidemic season for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Synagis® is indicated for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in pediatric patients. Peak RSV activity typically occurs between November and March, usually beginning in November or December, peaking in January or February, and ending by the end of March or sometime in April. Our coverage criteria specifies that the end of the RSV “season” is when the positivity rate on antigen tests is $\leq 10\%$ for 2 weeks or the positivity rate on PCR tests is $\leq 4\%$ for 2 consecutive weeks. This year, however, in Vermont the positivity rate never exceeded those rates, presumably due to social distancing and other Public Health emergency measures. Therefore, since positivity rates remain below 2%, we consider the RSV season to be over.

Synagis® prophylaxis is of unproven value when administered outside of the RSV season as defined by the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) surveillance reports (<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html#VT>).

Therefore, no further orders for Synagis® will be authorized **after 3/5/2021**.

For questions, please contact the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-844-679-5362. Vermont providers can also send inquiries via email to PBA_VTHelpdesk@changehealthcare.com. Thank you for your continued support of Vermont’s pharmacy benefits programs.