

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



September 22, 2021

Medical Drug Update – RSV Health Alert and Palivizumab (Synagis)

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a seasonal virus that typically circulates during colder months of the year peaking in the fall and declining by early spring, generally November thru March. This summer, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published health advisory alerts indicating increased interseasonal RSV activity. It is unknown how long the higher RSV trend will continue or whether the current trend will continue through the typical RSV season.

The prophylactic use of palivizumab (Synagis) to prevent severe RSV illness in certain infants and young children who are at high risk for severe disease requires prior authorization (PA). For members who meet medical necessity criteria, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) is currently approving 5 doses of palivizumab. If a member requires additional treatment beyond the standard 5 doses, providers should submit a PA renewal request supplying appropriate clinical documentation. Blue Cross will continue to monitor local and national health advisory guidelines and RSV trends through what would have been the normal RSV season and approve additional doses, if indicated.

Products Impacted

This applies to commercial lines of business.

Prior Authorization (PA) Requests

- Participating providers must submit PA requests online via our free [Availity](#)[®] provider portal
- For medical drugs, PA's can also be submitted using a [NCPDP](#) standard XML file feed to Blue Cross through CenterX, via an integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. To learn how to do this, providers should contact their EMR vendor for assistance.
- Out of state, non-contracted providers can submit a PA request to Blue Cross by either using the electronic processes above, the [fax form](#) located under the Forms & Publications section on the Blue Cross website, or their own PA form.

Note: An approved PA does not guarantee coverage under a subscriber's benefit plan. Subscriber benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain services discussed in the medical policies.

Reminder Regarding Medical Policies

Blue Cross medical policy medical necessity criteria used with PA reviews can be accessed online:

- Go to providers.bluecrossmn.com
- Under Tools & Resources, select "Medical Policy", and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
- Under the "Medical and Behavioral Health Policies" header, select "Blue Cross and Shield of Minnesota Medical Policies"

References:

- CDC Health Advisory – [CDCHAN-00443](#) – June 10, 2021
- Minnesota Department of Health – [Health Advisory](#) – August 4, 2021

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at (651) 662-5200 or 1-800-262-0820.

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