Synagis (Palivizumab)

Policy Number: MM.04.025  
Original Effective Date: 11/13/2001
Line(s) of Business: HMO; PPO; QUEST Integration  
Current Effective Date: 08/28/2015
Section: Prescription Drugs
Place(s) of Service: Outpatient, Ambulatory Infusion Suite

I. Description
Palivizumab (Synagis) is a monoclonal antibody produced by recombinant DNA technology. It is an intramuscular injection used as a prophylaxis against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). RSV is found worldwide and occurs throughout the year. It is the leading cause of lower respiratory tract disease in infants and young children. Each year in the United States, nearly 90,000 children are hospitalized due to infection with RSV. In the continental U.S., the season generally begins in early November and continues through April. In Hawaii, RSV infections generally peak from September through March.

This policy reflects the 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics national guidelines, 2015 Med-QUEST (Hawaii) RSV guidelines and the 2015 Hawaii RSV Consensus Committee guidelines.

II. Criteria/Guidelines
A. For infants eligible for immunoprophylaxis, the beginning of the season will be considered September 15, 2015 continuing through the month of March 2016.

B. Palivizumab (Synagis) is covered (subject to Limitations and Administrative Guidelines) for the following patients:

1. Children younger than two years old at the beginning of the RSV season with chronic lung disease requiring ongoing, significant treatment, such as oxygen, diuretic therapy, or corticosteroids, within six months of the anticipated season (born on or after September 15, 2013; continuing medical treatment after March 15, 2015).

2. All children younger than 1 year chronological age at the beginning of the season with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease requiring medical management to control congestive heart failure, infants with cyanotic heart disease, or infants with moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension (born on or after September 15, 2014).

3. For children who have undergone cardiopulmonary bypass who still require prophylaxis, a post-operative dose of palivizumab (15 mg/kg) should be considered as soon as the patient is medically stable.

4. Children born prematurely under 29 weeks (28 + 6 or less) gestation who are less than one year chronological age at the beginning of the season (born on or after September 15, 2014).
5. Children born prematurely between 29 + 0 and 31 + 6 weeks gestation who require supplemental oxygen greater than or equal to 28 days after birth and are less than one year chronological age at the beginning of the season (born on or after September 15, 2014).
6. Infants with pulmonary abnormalities or neuromuscular disease that impair the ability to clear secretions from the upper airways, less than 1 year chronological age at the beginning of the season may be considered for prophylaxis (born on or after September 15, 2014).

- For children meeting the criteria above, a maximum of five doses can be given from September 15, 2015 through the month of March 2016 as outlined in the following table.
- The interval between the first and second dose should be as close as possible to 28 days. All subsequent dose intervals should be as close to 30 days as possible (range 28-35 days).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Dose Administered</th>
<th>Maximum Number of Doses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15, 2015 to October 31, 2015</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2016</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2016 to February 28, 2016</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Children treated with monthly prophylaxis who experience breakthrough RSV infection and need to be hospitalized should not continue treatment after discharge since the likelihood of a second RSV infection is less than 0.5 percent in the same season.

III. Limitations

A. Palivizumab prophylaxis is provided only during the peak months of RSV infections (September through March, with a five-dose schedule above that ends in March).
B. Palivizumab is indicated for the prevention of RSV and should not be used in patients who have an active RSV infection.
C. The following groups of infants are not at increased risk from RSV and generally should not receive immunoprophylaxis:
   1. Infants and children with hemodynamically insignificant heart disease (e.g., secundum atrial septal defect, small ventricular septal defect, pulmonic stenosis, uncomplicated aortic stenosis, mild coarctation of the aorta and patent ductus arteriosus).
   2. Infants with lesions adequately corrected by surgery unless they continue to require medication for congestive heart failure.
   3. Infants with mild cardiomyopathy who are not receiving medical therapy.
D. Continuation of palivizumab after hospitalization for RSV is not covered as it is not known to improve health outcomes (see II. C. above)

IV. Administrative Guidelines

A. Precertification is required. To precertify, please complete HMSA's Drug Review Request and mail or fax the form as indicated.
B. The dosing for palivizumab (15 mg/kg) is determined by the patient’s weight; therefore, this information must be included on every claim submitted. The weight in kilograms (kg) should be
documented in the comments field (block 19) on the CMS 1500 claim form or in the comments field in EMC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>90378</td>
<td>Respiratory Syncytial Virus Immune Globulin (RSV-IGIM), for intramuscular use per 50mg</td>
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V. Important Reminder
The purpose of this Medical Policy is to provide a guide to coverage. This Medical Policy is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Nothing in this Medical Policy is intended to discourage or prohibit providing other medical advice or treatment deemed appropriate by the treating physician.

Benefit determinations are subject to applicable member contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language will control.

This Medical Policy has been developed through consideration of the medical necessity criteria under Hawaii’s Patients’ Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Act (Hawaii Revised Statutes §432E-1.4), generally accepted standards of medical practice and review of medical literature and government approval status. HMSA has determined that services not covered under this Medical Policy will not be medically necessary under Hawaii law in most cases. If a treating physician disagrees with HMSA’s determination as to medical necessity in a given case, the physician may request that HMSA reconsider the application of the medical necessity criteria to the case at issue in light of any supporting documentation.

VI. References
9. QUEST Memo, BEN-9804.
10. QUEST Memo, BEN-0006.
11. QUEST Memo, BEN-0103.