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Governor



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End of Coverage for Use of Palivizumab Prophylaxis to Prevent Hospitalization from Severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection

Dear Provider,

March 4, 2022

The Office of MaineCare Services (OMS), in coordination with their Pharmacy Benefits Manager, Change Healthcare (CHC), review data from the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) to track the epidemic season for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Palivizumab is indicated for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in infants who are considered high risk for severe disease. Peak RSV activity typically occurs between November and March, peaking in January or February, and ending by the end of March. As mentioned in a [previous communication](#) OMS and CHC monitor RSV activity in Maine to determine the end of coverage for palivizumab. [NREVSS](#) has reported a steady decline on positive PCR tests with a positivity rate of < 3% since January 22, 2022. OMS and CHC criteria for acceptance of prior authorization (PA) requests for coverage of palivizumab is a percent positive PCR tests of >3% for two consecutive weeks. With the PCR positivity percent < 3% for 5 consecutive weeks, MaineCare will no longer accept PA requests for palivizumab starting **March 11, 2022**. Scheduled doses will be covered through March 31, 2022.

Palivizumab 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#ME>). Therefore, no further shipments will be authorized **after 3/31/22**.

For questions, please contact the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-888-420-9711. Mainecare providers can also send inquiries via email to PBA_helpdesk@changehealthcare.com

Thank you for your continued support of MaineCare's pharmacy benefit program.