



## MaineCare Services

An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services

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**To:** MaineCare Providers  
**From:** Jennifer Cook, Pharmacy Unit Manager  
**Date:** 10/26/09  
**Re:** **MaineCare Synagis Authorization Criteria for the 2009-2010 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Season**

MaineCare is changing prior authorization criteria for Synagis to reflect recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

1. Recommendations for the initiation and termination of prophylaxis are modified to reflect current descriptions from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) seasonality in different geographic locations within the United States.
  - a. For MaineCare members, PAs will be accepted starting October 26<sup>th</sup> for dates of service starting November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Synagis will not be authorized for administration prior to this date.
  - b. This criteria is based on the fact that the Maine RSV season, based on historical epidemiologic data, has not started (as defined by two consecutive weeks of at least 10% of submitted specimens being positive for RSV AND > 5 specimens submitted) prior to 12/1 and generally not until late December or early January.
  - c. This will allow the five doses to provide protection that extends later in the season when RSV has been proven historically to remain active in Maine.
2. Repeat doses will be authorized no sooner than 30 days after the preceding dose.
3. Only 5 doses total will be authorized regardless of indication.
4. A maximum of three doses will be authorized for infants with a gestational age of 32 weeks, 0 days to 34 weeks, 6 days without hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease (CHD) or chronic lung disease of prematurity (CLD, previously called bronchopulmonary dysplasia) who qualify for prophylaxis.
5. The risk factors used to determine risk for severe disease and, therefore, the need for prophylaxis for infants born between 32 weeks, 0 days and 34 weeks, 6 days gestation have been modified to include only those infants born within 3 months of the start of the RSV season or during the RSV season AND having 1 of the 2 following risk factors:
  - a. Infant attends child care, or
  - b. One of more siblings or other children younger than 5 years live permanently in the child's household
6. Infants who qualify under criteria # 5 above, will only be authorized to receive prophylaxis until they receive 3 doses or reach 90 days of age (whichever comes first).
7. The definition of gestational age is being modified to match that proposed by the Red Book Committee. For example, "32 to 35 weeks gestational age" is defined as 32 weeks, 0 days through 34 weeks, 6 days.

The new Prior Authorization form can be found at: <http://www.mainearepd.org/index.pl/pafiles>

Information about the Red Book recommendations can be found at:  
<http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/2009/1/3.110>

For further questions please contact Goold Health Systems at 1-888-420-9711

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