

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

March 24, 2005

MEDICAID BULLETIN

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TO: Physicians, Hospitals and Infusion Centers

SUBJECT: Administration of Synagis® (Palivizumab) Intramuscular Injections to Medicaid Patients during the Month of April of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Season

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will support April administration of palivizumab (Synagis®) for the following categories of infants at risk for late season lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) who have had fewer than 4 consecutive monthly doses through March 15, 2005:

- Infants and children younger than 2 years of age with chronic lung disease (formerly called bronchopulmonary dysplasia) who have unstable respiratory conditions and continue to require supplemental oxygen or use of bronchodilators, corticosteroids or diuretics.
- Infants and children younger than 2 years of age who are ventilator dependent or who have a tracheostomy.
- Infants and children younger than 2 years of age with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease.

Prior authorization for an April dose will be required. Please submit requests documenting the medical necessity of this additional injection to:

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Hospital Services
Attn: Medical Review/Synagis® Program
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Please Note:

Policy changes for the Synagis® program documented in the October 1, 2004 bulletin, *Administration of Synagis® (Palivizumab) Injections during the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Season*, are still in effect.

If you have any questions regarding this Medicaid bulletin or any other Medicaid billing or policy questions, please contact your program representative at (803) 898-2665. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid program.

/s/

Robert M. Kerr
Director

RMK/bgvh

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by email or to sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to the following link for instructions:
<http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/ResourceLibrary/E-Bulletins.htm>