



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
*Commissioner*

Wendy E. Saunders  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

August 17, 2009

Dear Prescriber:

The New York State Medicaid Clinical Drug Review Program (CDRP) is expanding to require prior authorization for palivizumab (Synagis®) starting in September. The purpose of this change is to help ensure that utilization of Synagis® occurs within the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season and in children less than two (2) years of age at the onset of the RSV season.

Effective September 15, 2009, prior authorization will be required under the following circumstances when Synagis is billed by pharmacies:

- Synagis® dispensed between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Synagis® for children two years of age and over at the onset of the RSV season

Prior authorization through the CDRP is NOT required under the following circumstances:

- Prescriptions for Synagis® for children less than two (2) years of age that are submitted between October 16<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Synagis® administered and billed by physicians/nurse practitioners, or ordered ambulatory providers

To obtain prior authorization for Synagis®, the prescriber must contact the Pharmacy Prior Authorization Clinical Call Center at (877) 309-9493 and follow the appropriate prompts. Faxed requests are not permitted. Prescribers should be prepared to provide clinical information that supports the use of Synagis® outside of the FDA approved clinical indications or American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines.

**Remember, prescriptions for Synagis® for children less than two (2) years of age that are submitted between October 16<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> will NOT require prior authorization.**

Detailed clinical information on bronchiolitis and use of Synagis® is available on the NY Prescriber Education Program (PEP) website at the on-line training link:  
<http://onlinetraining.umassmed.edu/NewYorkPEP>

The PEP is designed to optimize the quality of care for New York State Medicaid beneficiaries by providing clinicians with the most current information on best practices in pharmaceuticals and therapeutics. For additional information please visit the PEP website at:  
[http://www.nyhealth.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/prescriber\\_education/presc-educationprog](http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/prescriber_education/presc-educationprog)

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Clinical Call Center at (877) 309-9493. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to maintain a quality pharmacy program.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Jones, R.N.  
Director, Medicaid Pharmacy Program  
Office of Health Insurance Programs