

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

Richard F. Daines, M.D. Commissioner James W. Clyne, Jr. Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 7, 2010

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

This letter serves to inform you of changes to the New York State (NYS) Medicaid prior authorization pharmacy validation process that may affect you. Palivizumab (Synagis®) is a monoclonal antibody used as prophylaxis for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and is currently subject to the prior authorization requirements of the New York State Medicaid Clinical Drug Review Program (CDRP). The goal of the program is to 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.

To obtain prior authorization for Synagis®, the prescriber must contact the Medicaid Pharmacy Prior Authorization Clinical Call Center. **All prescriptions for Synagis will carry a prior authorization number ending in W.** Pharmacists are required to validate the prior authorization number prior to dispensing. To validate a prior authorization number ending in W, please call the prior authorization Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at 1-877-309-9493 and listen to the prompts. The clinical call center is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

As a reminder:

- Prescriptions for Synagis® dispensed between April 1st and October 15th require prior authorization.
- Prescriptions for Synagis® for children less than two (2) years of age at the onset of the RSV season that are submitted between October 16th and March 31st do NOT require prior authorization.
- Prescriptions for Synagis® for children two years of age and over at the onset of the RSV season will require prior authorization.

Please note that pharmacy providers must submit Point of Service (POS) claims at the time of dispensing to ensure appropriate payment.

You may be contacted by a pharmacist from the Magellan Medicaid Administration clinical education team to provide further information regarding the changes in the Synagis® PA validation process. The clinical education team may be reached at 518-951-2051.

For Clinical Drug Review Program questions or concerns, visit <u>www.nyhealth.gov</u> and <u>http://newyork.fhsc.com</u> or call the clinical call center at 1-877-309-9493. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to provide a quality pharmacy program for Medicaid and Family Health Plus enrollees.

Sincerely,

Mary a Donohue

Mary A Donohue, MAS II PDP Program Manager Bureau of Pharmacy Policy and Operations Office of Health Insurance Programs