



**Texas Medicaid – Cook Children’s Health Plan  
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Season  
Traditional Season 2023-2024 | SYNAGIS Prior Authorization Request Form**

**About Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection Prophylaxis**

Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) causes mild symptoms in most people, but can also cause severe illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchiolitis in some infants and children. Two products are currently available to help prevent RSV infections in young children.

**Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS)** is a one-time intramuscular injection to prevent severe RSV infections in newborns and children under one year old who are born during or entering their first RSV season. Children up to 24 months old who remain at high risk of severe RSV infection through their second RSV season may also receive BEYFORTUS. BEYFORTUS is available through the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program and is given by TVFC providers. An RSV vaccine (ABRYVVO) is also available to be administered to pregnant individuals at 32 to 36 weeks gestation for the prevention of severe RSV infections in their infants after delivery up to 6 months of age. Children who have received BEYFORTUS or who were exposed to ABRYVVO in utero should not receive additional medications for RSV prevention during the same RSV season.

**Palivizumab (SYNAGIS)** is a monthly intramuscular injection for infants and children up to 24 months old at the RSV season start who are at high-risk for severe RSV infections. Patients receive up to five (5) monthly doses of SYNAGIS during the RSV season. SYNAGIS is available under the pharmacy benefit and requires prior authorization. Patients who receive BEYFORTUS at any time during the RSV season should not receive SYNAGIS injections.

**Initiating Prophylaxis with SYNAGIS**

The provider's office sends a completed **Medicaid SYNAGIS Prior Authorization Request Form** to a preferred pharmacy listed at the top of the form. The prior authorization request should include the SYNAGIS prescription (bottom of the form), and any supporting clinical information.

**The pharmacy faxes both the Texas Standard Prior Authorization Request Form for Prescription Drug Benefits and the completed SYNAGIS form to the NAVITUS Prior Authorization Department at 1-855-668-8553.**

If the request is approved, both the pharmacy and provider are notified. The dispensing pharmacy fills the prescription and ships an individual dose of SYNAGIS, in the name of the patient, directly to the provider. The pharmacy also mails an initiation packet containing information about SYNAGIS to the patient’s family. Approvals are limited to one (1) monthly dose and five (5) total fills during the member’s local RSV season.

The providers office administers the SYNAGIS injection. The administering provider may only bill for an injection administration fee and any medically necessary office-based evaluation and management services provided at the time of injection. The pharmacy is reimbursed for the drug and dispensing fees.

If the information submitted does not demonstrate medical necessity, then the request is denied and both the pharmacy and provider are notified of the denial. Providers may request a reconsideration or appeal of the decision.

**Subsequent Doses of SYNAGIS**

Patients can receive one (1) dose of SYNAGIS per month, up to five (5) doses during the state-identified local RSV season. Depending on the date of the initial dose, a patient may not receive all five (5) injections before the season ends.

For subsequent doses within the local RSV season, the pharmacy does NOT need to request re-authorization. However, the pharmacy must verify the patient has NOT been hospitalized with an RSV infection and has not received BEYFORTUS (nirsevimab) during the current local RSV season. Based on the 2019 American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, prophylactic SYNAGIS injections should NOT continue if a patient is hospitalized for RSV. **The pharmacy must submit each SYNAGIS claim with a Submission Clarification Code (SCC) of 11 to show this has been verified.**

**Contact**

**Dispensing pharmacy should fax both the Texas Standard Prior Authorization Request Form for Prescription Drug Benefits and this completed SYNAGIS prior authorization form to NAVITUS at 1-855-668-8553.**

Providers with questions should call the Texas Provider Hotline at 1-877-908-6023.

**Dispensing Pharmacy FAX completed form to NAVITUS for approval: 1.855.668.8553**





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PHONE:	FAX:	NPI:	
ADDRESS:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
Prescriber Signature:			Date: / /

Category	Subcategories
‡Chronic Lung Disease (CLD) of Prematurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants born less than (&lt;) 32 weeks, 0 days' gestational age who require greater than (&gt;) 21% oxygen for at least 28 days after birth.</li> </ul>
Hemodynamically <b>significant</b> heart disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) requiring medication</li> <li>Moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension</li> <li>Unrepaired cyanotic congenital heart disease</li> </ul>
*Severe lung disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous hospitalization for pulmonary exacerbation in the first year of life or abnormalities on chest radiography or chest computed tomography that persist when stable</li> </ul>
<b>The following groups of infants are NOT AT INCREASED risk of RSV and generally should not receive immunoprophylaxis:</b>	
1) Hemodynamically <b>insignificant</b> heart disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secundum atrial septal defect</li> <li>Small ventriculoseptal defect</li> <li>Pulmonic stenosis</li> <li>Uncomplicated aortic stenosis</li> <li>Mild coarctation of the aorta</li> <li>Patent ductus arteriosus</li> </ul>
2) Congenital heart disease adequately corrected by surgery which does not continue to require medication for congestive heart failure	
3) Mild cardiomyopathy that does not require medical therapy for the condition	
4) Children in their second year of life on the basis of a history of prematurity alone	
<b>NOTE:</b> Tobacco smoke exposure is <u>NOT</u> an indication for SYNAGIS administration. Tobacco dependent parents should be offered tobacco dependence treatment or referral for tobacco dependence treatment. 1-877-YES-QUIT (1-877-937-7848, <a href="http://YesQuit.org">YesQuit.org</a> ) is the Quitline operated in Texas.	

**Additional Information**

- Texas Medicaid has adopted the updated guidance published in 2014 by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Infants born at 29 weeks, 0 days' gestation or later are no longer universally recommended to receive prophylaxis with SYNAGIS. Infants born at 29 weeks, 0 days' gestation or later, on the basis of chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, or another condition, may qualify to receive prophylaxis.
- SYNAGIS is not recommended in the second year of life on the basis of prematurity alone.
- Monthly prophylaxis should be discontinued in any child who experiences a breakthrough RSV hospitalization.
- Patients who receive BEYFORTUS during the RSV season no longer need SYNAGIS prophylactic therapy.
- SYNAGIS prophylactic therapy is not needed for a newborn who was exposed in utero when their birthing parent received ABRYVVO vaccination during 32 to 36 weeks gestation of their pregnancy.

**References**

- "Updated Guidance for Palivizumab Prophylaxis Among Infants and Young Children at Increased Risk of Hospitalization for Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection." *Pediatrics* 134.2 (2014): 415-420. Web. 11 Aug. 2015.
- SYNAGIS (palivizumab) [prescribing information]. Gaithersburg, MD: Medimmune, LLC. 2014.
- Epinephrine 1:1000 (1mg/mL) [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Hospira. 2008.

**For questions, please call Navitus Customer Care at 1-877-908-6023.  
Dispensing Pharmacy FAX completed form to NAVITUS for approval: 1.855.668.8553**