STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

To: Pediatricians
Pharmacy Providers

From: Mona K. Gahunia, D.O., Chief Medical Officer MKG

Subject: 2014-2015 RSV Season Clinical and Service Prior-Authorizations

Date: October 15, 2014

This memorandum is to update providers of the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program (MMPP) on the coverage of Synagis in high-risk infants for passive immunoprophylaxis against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) known as a lower respiratory tract infection.

For the 2014-2015 RSV season, MMPP will utilize the updated July 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for the determination of RSV immunoprophylaxis approval. In the 2014 AAP guidelines, prophylaxis is no longer recommended for the following conditions:

- Prematurity without chronic lung disease or chronic heart disease for infants > or = 29 weeks 0 days gestation
- Infants born at 32 to less than 35 weeks' gestation with one of the following risk factors:
  Child care attendance
  Sibling less than 5 years old living in the same household
- Prevention of health-care associated RSV

The Prescriber shall fax the following forms and documents to the MMPP at (866) 440-9345 to expedite the prior-authorization process: (**incomplete forms will be returned**)

1. The MMPP Prescriber's Statement of Medical Necessity (SMN) form;
2. The MMPP Synagis Service Prior-Authorization form; and
3. The patient's hospital discharge summary, which includes information about the gestational age, medical diagnosis, drug history and prior Synagis administrations given in the hospital before discharge.

The submitted information will be reviewed by the MMPP's clinical pharmacist and the decision will be communicated to the prescriber and pharmacy if provided.

When Synagis is approved by the MMPP:

The Prescriber shall:

1. Contact the pharmacy for the ordering/delivery of Synagis to the office; and
2. Each month, complete the Synagis Service Prior-Auth Form and fax it to 1-866-440-9345.

The Pharmacy Provider shall:

1. Submit the Synagis claim electronically to the MMPP Point-of-Sale (POS) claims processor to obtain a system denial; and
2. Call 1-800-932-3918 to obtain the necessary POS edit overrides for on-line claim adjudication.

Starting October 15, 2014, the Program will begin accepting and reviewing requests for prior-authorization of Synagis. Synagis may be billed after October 24, 2014 and the first Synagis dose should not be administered to patients until November 1, 2014 thru March 31, 2015.

Once the recipient is approved, the drug will be covered for the number of doses needed for the RSV season as per AAP guidelines. Should the prescriber feel that the infant, who has been denied Synagis, has extenuating co-morbidity and severe risks for complications due to RSV, a recommendation letter by the child's pulmonologist or cardiologist should be faxed to the MMPP for reconsideration on a case-by-case basis.

Pharmacy providers are responsible to verify the recipient's eligibility each month by calling the Eligibility Verification Automated System (EVS) at 1-866-710-1447 (24 hrs/7 days) before submitting their requests for service refill. Requests for prior-authorization for recipients who are enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) should be directed to the respective MCO. Below is a list of telephone numbers for the MCO's prior-authorizations:

TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBERS FOR MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Managed Care Organization/Customer Service	**Pharmacy Benefit Managers' Phone Number**
AMERIGROUP Community Care	1-800-600-4441
Jai Medical Systems	1-888-524-1999
Maryland Physicians Care	1-800-953-8852
Medstar (Helix) Family Choice	1-888-404-3549
Priority Partners	1-800-654-9728
United Healthcare	1-800-318-8821
Riverside Health	1-800730-8530
Kaiser Permanente	1-855-249-5019

Any additional questions concerning prior-authorizations of Synagis may be directed to the MMPP Clinical Pharmacist at 1-800-932-3918. All prior-authorization forms for Synagis may be downloaded from the MMPP website at https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/pap/SitePages/Clinical%20Criteria.aspx.