

September 2011

Dear Doctor:

As you are probably aware, RSV¹ season (November through March) is right around the corner. Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) wants to ensure that **Synagis** (pavilizumab), the monoclonal antibody shown to prevent serious RSV infections in high-risk infants, is available to any of our little members who need it. As we have done in previous years, we will continue to follow the latest American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for determining medical necessity of Synagis; these are the same as they were last year. Thus, we will implement the guidelines in line with the State Medi-Cal and California Children Services (CCS) programs.

HPSM's current (2011-12) Synagis authorization form is enclosed with this letter. This form will also be available on our web site (www.hpsm.org/providers) for your use.

This year we will again work with Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy, which is coordinating with IRx (our Pharmacy Benefits Manager), and Medimmune (Synagis manufacturer) to distribute Synagis in a timely fashion to HPSM patients who need it. HPSM will review each prior authorization request for Synagis and authorize the medication for the RSV season, and then Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy will work with you to arrange monthly shipments.

To assist us in this process, we need you to do the following:

1. **Identify** any of your infant patients who are at risk for RSV using the current AAP guidelines (see enclosed authorization form)
2. **Complete** one authorization form for each infant in need of Synagis
3. **Fax** each completed form to HPSM at 650-829-2045
4. **Work** with Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy (1-888-347-3416) to arrange a delivery time that is convenient for your office to receive Synagis after you have received an approved prior authorization from HPSM.
5. **Order** subsequent monthly doses, and provide patient's weight updates to Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy (again at 1-888-347-3416).

Note that HPSM is working closely with San Mateo County California Children Services (CCS) in our authorization process. If your patient is a CCS patient as well as an HPSM member, you can request authorization directly from HPSM; **we** will then notify CCS. You do **not** need to get CCS authorization first for Synagis because of the special collaboration we have arranged with CCS for this project.

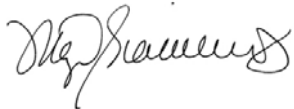
¹ Respiratory Syncytial Virus

We hope that this straightforward process will assist in making Synagis authorization and delivery a streamlined one. Please start sending your Synagis authorization requests to HPSM **as soon as possible** so that Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy can start making arrangements for November shipments.

If you have any questions about the specifics of Synagis authorization, please feel free to contact our Pharmacy Unit at 650-616-2088. You may also contact me at 650-616-2166 or mary.giammona@hpsm.org.

Thanks for helping us keep our littlest HPSM members healthy during this upcoming RSV season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary D. Giammona". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary D. Giammona, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Enc