

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, Medicaid

**To:** Federally Qualified Health Centers, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Pharmacies, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rural Health Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## Clarification of Provider Responsibilities for Requesting and Amending Prior Authorizations for Synagis®

This *ForwardHealth Update* clarifies provider prior authorization (PA) responsibilities and introduces new policy for amending approved PA for Synagis®.

Synagis® (palivizumab), a monoclonal antibody, is used to prevent lower respiratory tract diseases caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in premature, high-risk infants. The prevalence for RSV is from October through April and the treatment season in the northern hemisphere is generally from November through March. The general recommendation for treatment with Synagis® during a treatment season is to administer the first dose in November and the last dose in March.

As a reminder, Synagis® is not part of the provider-administered drugs carve-out policy; therefore, a member's managed care organization (MCO) should reimburse providers for Synagis®.

### Responsibilities for Submission of Prior Authorization Requests

As a reminder, prior authorization (PA) is required for Synagis®. Prior authorization requests for Synagis® may be submitted via the Drug Authorization and Policy Override (DAPO) Center at (800) 946-9627, the ForwardHealth Portal, or by paper.

When requesting PA for Synagis®, the prescribing provider is required to identify the name and National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the provider who intends to submit a claim for reimbursement for Synagis® (e.g., the billing provider).

If the prescribing provider intends to submit the claim, the prescribing provider is required to indicate his or her name and NPI on the PA request as the billing provider.

If the prescribing provider's clinic or group intends to submit the claim, the prescribing provider is required to indicate the clinic or group's name and NPI on the PA request as the billing provider.

If a pharmacy provider intends to submit the claim, the prescribing provider is required to indicate the pharmacy provider's name and NPI on the PA request as the billing provider. In this case, it is the prescribing provider's responsibility to acquire the pharmacy provider's name and NPI.

### Amending Approved Prior Authorizations for Weight Changes

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after December 1, 2011, both prescribing providers and billing providers may amend approved PAs for Synagis® if a member's weight changes, resulting in an increase in Synagis® units during a

treatment season. Providers have 30 days from the date of administering each dose change to amend an approved PA for Synagis®.

If the prescribing provider is not also the billing provider, the prescribing provider may only amend the PA by contacting the DAPO Center.

Billing providers may amend PA requests through the following:

- By calling the DAPO Center.
- By submitting an online amendment request via on the ForwardHealth Portal at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).
- By submitting a Prior Authorization Amendment Request, F-11042 (10/08), by mail or fax.

Effective for DOS on and after December 1, 2011, to amend a PA request for Synagis®, providers are required to provide the following information:

- The member's most recent weight and the date it was measured.
- The member's weight at the time the dose change occurred and the date it was measured.
- The requested start date for the dose change.
- The new Synagis® dose calculation.

### **Change in Billing Provider**

If the billing provider changes during the course of Synagis® treatment, the prescribing provider (i.e., the provider who submitted the original PA request) is responsible for amending the PA. To amend the billing provider information, the prescribing provider is required to call the DAPO Center. The prescribing provider will be required to give the new billing provider's name and NPI.

### **For More Information**

For more information about Synagis® policies and procedures, providers may refer to the Pharmacy and Physician Service areas of the Online Handbook on the Portal.

## **Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations**

This *ForwardHealth Update* contains fee-for-service policy for members enrolled in Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus who receive pharmacy services on a fee-for-service basis only. Pharmacy services for Medicaid members enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the Family Care Partnership are provided by the member's MCO. Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus HMOs must provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

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