

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2265-MC-FFS**

**DATE:** August 26, 2021

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Therapeutically Certified Optometrists, Podiatrists, Pharmacies, Home Health Agencies, Rural Health Clinics, Clinics, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Nursing Facilities-Mental ILL, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Indian Health Service, Maternal Health Centers, Certified Nurse Midwife, Community Mental Health, Family Planning, Residential Care Facilities, ICF/ID State and Community Based ICF/ID Providers and Physician Assistants

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC) and Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) 2021-2022 Season

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a June 2021, health advisory highlighting increased inter-seasonal RSV levels across parts of the southern United States. The Midwest region, including Iowa, is experiencing a similar, unexpected off-season surge of RSV. In light of this, Iowa Medicaid will review Synagis® (palivizumab) requests on a case-by-case basis outside of the typical RSV season to ensure that an appropriate pathway to coverage is available for eligible patients.

Coverage is as follows:

- **Off-Season Surge**
  - [Prior authorization \(PA\) requests](#)<sup>1</sup> will be considered on a month to month basis for off-cycle surge for any child who fits the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) criteria and has not “aged out” of the criteria, and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iowamedicaidpd.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/prior-authorization-forms/2014-10-15/pavilizumab-pa-form-npi-oct2014accepted.pdf>

- The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) data reflects polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing of >3% and more than 100 tests were done in that week, and
- The off-season doses will not count towards the normal maximum of five (5) doses for the 2021-2022 season; this is considered a separate season.
- **2021-2022 RSV Season**
  - Start Date – Approval periods will begin November 1, 2021, and will be considered through March 31, 2022, and as medically necessary based on RSV prevalence.
  - Doses – A maximum of five (5) doses will be allowed per member per RSV season. No allowances will be made for a sixth dose, regardless of start date.
  - PA Submission – Requests may be submitted beginning October 12, 2021, for a therapy start date of November 1, 2021, using the [Palivizumab \(Synagis®\) PA Form](#)<sup>2</sup>.

If you have questions relative to coverage, please contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO); or the FFS Pharmacy Prior Authorization Helpdesk at 877-776-1567, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4607, or by e-mail at [info@iowamedicaidpdl.com](mailto:info@iowamedicaidpdl.com).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/prior-authorization-forms/2014-10-15/palivizumab-pa-form-npi-oct2014accepted.pdf>