

**DATE:** February 14, 2022

**TO:** AHCCCS Contractor Chief Medical Officers  
AHCCCS Contractor Pharmacy Directors  
Division of Fee-For-Service Management

**FROM:** Sara Salek, AHCCCS Chief Medical Officer  
Suzi Berman, AHCCCS Pharmacy Director

**SUBJECT:** Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) causes respiratory tract infections and serious lung disease in infants and children. Synagis (palivizumab) is available for children that are at high risk for RSV.

Due to the recent summertime resurgence in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activities, in Arizona and across the United States, it is not possible to anticipate if RSV activity will continue to spread equally across all areas of the state or if it will increase to the levels of activity typically seen during the fall and winter months. The Arizona Department of Health Services provides weekly RSV surveillance graphs in order to aid in monitoring activity levels:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/flu/index.php#surveillance-rsv-season>

Synagis is a year-round benefit for AHCCCS members and off-season use must be considered when medically necessary. AHCCCS has made the determination to allow children who meet prior authorization medically necessary criteria to receive monthly doses of Synagis. To address concerns for the appropriateness of giving additional doses or starting new therapy, during any of the seasons throughout the year, providers will be required to assess the need for prophylaxis therapy for the children in their geographic service area. AHCCCS MCOs may request the provider to submit a new prior authorization for the additional doses.

For additional RSV information, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collects weekly RSV virology data from participating laboratories using the National Respiratory and Enteric Viruses Surveillance System (NREVSS). State-level RSV data are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html>.