

Children's Lung Specialists Synagis Program

Synagis, an FDA-approved injection of antibodies given every 28-30 days during the RSV season (typically approved by most insurances November through March, sometimes earlier or later depending on your insurance carrier), has been prescribed by one of the providers here at Children's Lung Specialists. We begin preparing for the season in September/October in order to get updated information to send to insurances to obtain approval. The process of obtaining approval from insurance companies and receiving shipments from specialty pharmacies takes about 3 weeks. The lengthy process includes submitting for approval from the insurance company by either the pharmacy or our office (whichever method they require), pharmacies contacting parents for authorization of shipment and co-payments (if approved), pharmacies contacting our office to set-up shipment, and our office contacting parents to schedule an appointment. If any problems occur at any step along the way, or the insurance companies take longer than expected to authorize Synagis, the process could take longer than 3 weeks. If any insurance changes occur during the Synagis season, the office and the Synagis coordinator **MUST** be notified ASAP, as the process will have to start from the beginning again, and, seeing as the time between shots is only 28-30 days, any problems or delays in notifying us could cause your child to be overdue and at-risk mid-RSV season.

Synagis is a very expensive medication which can be difficult to get approved. If denied, there are other venues and processes we can attempt to get Synagis through, though extra time to explore these may be needed. If approved, pharmacies typically contact parents/guardians every month to verify shipment and to fulfill any copayment that may be pending. (Note: Copayments you pay for Synagis are separate from the copayments you may have for the office visit to receive the injection.) Though we have nothing to do with the copayment for the medication, if you find that the copay is extremely high, the pharmacies should be offering assistance to you that will aide you during the RSV season (certain restrictions apply). Please understand we do not know what your copayment will be, nor are pharmacies allowed to divulge that information to us. When they do contact you, please do not hesitate to ask them any questions you may have.

If the pharmacy does contact you to release the medication, please note that they will be calling from either a 1-800, 1-888, or other nondescript number. If you do screen your calls, please listen to their message and return their call as soon as possible to eliminate delays. Some pharmacies only need your consent for the initial delivery, whereas some require consent before each dose, so be aware of their specific protocol to ensure that the Synagis is here on-time for your next injection.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm, at (702) 598-4411, x230.

Thank you,

Brad Takemura