

**Contact Clinical Nurse Specialist for RSV:
Ext: 2680 Bleep: 8268**

Note: Infant's Primary Consultant must sign the referral.

Palivizumab is an expensive product, to minimise waste Palivizumab doses are prepared in ACU on Wednesdays to facilitate vial sharing. Where possible please refer inpatients by Tuesday.

Please contact the Rainbow Paediatric Infectious Diseases Dept. with any queries related to RSV prophylaxis.

Developed by: Rainbow Paediatric Infectious Diseases Dept

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A Guide for Healthcare Workers

PALIVIZUMAB (Synagis®)



Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Phone: 01 409 6100

A Guide for Healthcare Workers

Palivizumab (synagis®) is a monoclonal antibody providing passive immunisation against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in infants vulnerable to severe infection.

Palivizumab (synagis®) is administered by intramuscular injection monthly throughout the winter months (generally from October through February).

Eligibility

- Premature infants born earlier than 29 weeks' gestation and under 1 year at the start of the RSV season.
- Premature infants born earlier than 32 weeks' gestation with chronic lung disease (requiring O2 for 28 days after birth) under 1 year at the start of RSV season.
- Children with chronic lung disease aged under 2 years who continue to require medical support (corticosteroid therapy, diuretics or supplemental oxygen).
- Severely immunocompromised patients aged under 2 years.
- Infants with pulmonary abnormalities or neuromuscular impairment that interferes with their ability to clear secretions

Cardiac infants eligible for Palivizumab

Babies with haemodynamically significant cardiac defects aged under 1 year at the start of the RSV season. Children considered for immunoprophylaxis include:

- Children who will require cardiac surgical procedures.
- Infants with congestive cardiac failure requiring medication.
- Infants with moderate to severe cardiomyopathy who require medication.
- Infants with moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension.
- Children aged under 2 years undergoing cardiac transplantation during RSV season.

Note: Because serum palivizumab levels decrease by 58% post cardiopulmonary bypass a further dose is required post operatively during RSV season.



Palivizumab (synagis®) dose 15mg per kg – prepared in ACU according to dose rounding table. Maximum recommended number of doses is 5.

A dosing interval not exceeding 32 days is essential to maintain protective serum levels



Contra indications to Palivizumab include:

- Previous allergic reaction to palivizumab or any of its components
- Moderate to severe sepsis
- A patient who develops breakthrough RSV infection no longer requires RSV prophylaxis

How to refer a patient for RSV prophylaxis?

Complete RSV prophylaxis referrals form (referral books available on all infant wards and in PICU) and send to Infectious diseases department 2nd floor medical tower.