To: Pediatric & Family Practice, Attendings, Nurse Manager, Assistant Nurse Managers, Neonatal Fellows, Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, NICU Care Managers, Pediatric Chief Residents and Follow-up Clinic

From: Abbot Laptook, M.D.

Date: August 24, 2021

RE: Off-Seasonal RSV Prophylaxis

Multiple states are now reporting a steady increase in off-season RSV infections. In response to this RSV activity, the AAP has issued interim guidance on the use of Synagis (palivizumab) during this off-season period (see attachment for URL link). Rhode Island is currently at a sustained level of RSV-related ED visits and test positivity rate to meet threshold for initiating Synagis prophylaxis to our high-risk infant population. It is not known at this time if we are seeing the beginning of a transient off-season peak, or a sustained infection rate that will continue through the usual November through March RSV season.

In consultation with RIDOH and Hasbro Hospital Pediatric Infectious Diseases, it has been determined that RSV prophylaxis with Synagis should be given to all qualifying infants beginning as soon as possible. Prophylaxis should continue monthly until the infection rate declines to below threshold for treatment. Updated guidance will be issued as indicated based on RIDOH review of monthly RSV community activity.

The AAP recommendations for prophylaxis are unchanged from last year and are summarized below:

1. Infants 29 weeks and 0 days gestation or less, and less than 1 year old as of the designated start date for prophylaxis (August 24, 2021).

2. Infants less than 32 weeks and 0 days gestation with chronic lung disease (greater than 21% inspired oxygen for at least 28 days after birth) and less than 1 year old at start date.

3. Infants less than 32 weeks and 0 days gestation with chronic lung disease (greater than 21% oxygen for at least 28 days after birth) and between 1 and 2 years old at start date who require ongoing medical treatment for chronic lung disease (supplemental oxygen, diuretic or steroid therapy).

4. Infants under 1 year old at start date with hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease (consultation with a cardiologist is recommended).

5. Infants with pulmonary abnormalities or neuromuscular disease that compromises respiratory secretions.

6. Infants under 2 years of age with profound immunocompromise.

Monthly prophylaxis should be discontinued in anyone who develops breakthrough RSV hospitalization. Prophylaxis is not recommended for prevention of RSV nosocomial disease. The benefits of prophylaxis for infants with cystic fibrosis or Down syndrome have not been established.

Beginning August 24, 2021, the Women & Infants Hospital will initiate RSV prophylaxis in the NICU as a first dose prior to discharge for appropriate infants. For preterm infants, we will inform medical providers at discharge of their treatment eligibility and date of their first dose. Whenever possible, we will give the first dose of Synagis 15 mg/kg 2 to 4 days before anticipated discharge.

We do not have resources at Women & Infants for out-patient prophylaxis in our discharged patients. We have had an excellent response from several homecare and pharmacy services in the community and have attached information about these services.

For current information about the eligibility or initial prophylaxis of NICU patients, please feel free to contact our NICU care managers at 401-274-1122, Ext. 43384, 43385 or 43386.

Thank you for your help with this important undertaking.

Attachment: URL links to AAP Interim Guidance and RSV Payer Information; Distributor List; RSV Contact Information
AAP Interim Guidance

Interim Guidance for Use of Palivizumab Prophylaxis to Prevent Hospitalization From Severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection During the Current Atypical Interseasonal RSV Spread (aap.org)

RSV

Contact Information

SOBI - Synagis Representative: Donald Wright donald.wright@sobi.com 401-265-8706

Synagis Connect: https://synagisconnect.com 833-796-2447
Assistance with referral form processing/reimbursement service/claims assistance/benefit verification/denial management

Local Distributors:
Walgreens AllianceRx: Fax:888-325-6455 Phone: 866-230-8102
CVS Specialty Pharmacy: Fax: 800-323-2445 Phone: 800-237-2767
Briova Specialty Pharmacy: Fax: 866-391-1890 Phone: 888-293-9309

Links to Payer Authorization/Precertification Information and Forms (information is being continuously updated):

RI Payer Grid
https://sobi.secure.force.com/PayerGrid?state=RI

MA Payer Grid
https://sobi.secure.force.com/PayerGrid?state=MA