



# PROVIDER *bulletin*

October 9, 2020

## **Synagis Impact Related to Managed Care to Medi-Cal RX Benefit Transition**

Effective January 1, 2021, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is transitioning Medi-Cal pharmacy services from the managed care delivery system to the Fee-For-Service delivery system known as Medi-Cal Rx. The transition will impact the injectables for Synagis (Palivizumab) used in treating RSV, or Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus.

RSV, is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Those at greatest risk for severe illness from RSV include:

- Premature infants
- Very young infants, especially those 6 months and younger
- Children younger than 2 years old with chronic lung disease
- Children younger than 2 years old with chronic heart disease
- Children with weakened immune systems
- Children who have neuromuscular disorders, including those who have difficulty swallowing or clearing mucus secretions than 1 year of age in the United States.

Kern Health Systems will continue to review and authorize medically necessary Synagis injections beginning in October through December 2020. Claims will be paid via the KHS Pharmacy Benefit (PBM) until December 2020. After January 1, 2021, new requests or claims for dates of service after 12/31/2020 will be processed by Medi-Cal RX.

Beneficiaries may contact your office to obtain additional information regarding the transition. If your office is unable to answer the question/s posed by the beneficiary, please refer the beneficiary to:

**Current – December 31, 2020:**

1-800-541-5555 (Medi-Cal Member Help Line)

**Post January 1, 2021:**

1-800-977-2273 (Medi-Cal RX Call Center Line)

For additional information regarding pharmacy benefits related to Synagis, please refer to the Medi-Cal Rx website: <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/>.



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**Additional Information:**

Medi-Cal Transition Overview Page:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/pharmacy/Pages/Medi-CalRX.aspx>

DHCS Rx Transitional Education and Training Site (Includes how to register and training videos):

<https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/education/>

For any additional questions please contact Kern Health Systems Pharmacy Department or your Provider Relations Representative at 661-664-5000.

Thank you,

Deborah Murr, RN, BS-HCM  
Chief Health Services Officer  
Kern Health Systems