

**An Important Message from
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

**2023-24 RSV Season and Synagis Prior Authorization Begins Oct. 2 For
Lower South Texas**

Background:

The Texas Pediatric Society's respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) task force detected a trend of positive tests for RSV in lower south Texas.

Key Details:

HHSC will begin the 2023-24 Medicaid and CHIP-covered monthly prophylaxis for RSV on Oct. 2, 2023, for all counties in State Health Service Region 11. We will not open any other regions for Medicaid coverage of RSV prophylaxis at this time. Refer to the [season schedule](#) for each region's start and end dates.

Prescribing providers must prescribe Synagis to infants meeting the criteria, unchanged from the 2022-2023 season, as described on the [American Academy of Pediatrics website](#). MCOs are required to adopt the same criteria as fee-for-service.

HHSC accepts fee-for-service (FFS) prior authorization requests by fax and as early as Sept. 25. Prior authorization effective dates are based on the patient's county of residence at the start of the season.

MCOs must provide Synagis to their members in Region 11 by Oct. 2. and publish prior authorization forms by the MCOs by Sept. 25.

HHSC will continue working with the Texas Pediatric Society's task force to determine the RSV prophylaxis schedule for the other regions and will provide additional communication.

Forms

- UHC requires the [Synagis respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) enrollment form](#)

NDC Information

The Synagis NDCs on the Medicaid formulary include the following:

- Synagis 100 MG/1 ml Vial (NDC 66658023101)
- Synagis 50 MG/0.5 ml Vial (NDC 66658023001)

Additional Information:

[New Products This Year](#)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved several new products for RSV prevention this year, including:

- Beyfortus (nirsevimab – monoclonal antibody – AstraZeneca/Sanofi) is administered as a one-time intramuscular dose for the prevention of severe RSV infections in newborns and babies under one year, born during or entering their first RSV season, as well as

children up to 24 months who remain at risk of severe RSV disease through their second RSV season. The [Texas Vaccine for Children Program \(TVFC\)](#) provides this medication.

- Abrysvo (RSV preF vaccine - Pfizer) is indicated as a single dose for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) caused by RSV in people 60 years and older, as well as pregnant individuals at 32 through 36 of gestation for the prevention LRTD and severe LRTD caused by RSV in infants from birth through 6 months of age.
- Arexvy (RSV PreF3 vaccine - GSK) is indicated as a single dose for preventing LRTD caused by RSV in people 60 years of age and older.

The Vendor Drug Program does not cover these products as a pharmacy benefit. Nirsevimab, intended for children, is available through TVFC. The other vaccines may be available through the Medicaid medical benefit in the future.

Questions?

For questions about rate changes or claims, reach out to your provider advocate, email uhc_cp_prov_relations@uhc.com or call the LTSS Provider Relations Line at 888-787-4107.