

700 Children's Drive
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nationwidechildrens.org

PALIVIZUMAB (SYNAGIS®)

Palivizumab (pah li VIZ uh mab) is the generic name for the medicine Synagis® (SIN a jiss). This medicine is used to lessen the chance of your child getting a serious lung infection, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). Palivizumab only helps to **prevent** serious RSV infections. It is still possible for your child to get an RSV infection, even if palivizumab is taken.

WHO MAY BE GIVEN THIS MEDICINE

Children who would be at serious risk if they get an RSV infection may be given this medicine:

- Babies born prematurely (less than 35 weeks)
- Children younger than 2 years who still need treatment for BPD (bronchopulmonary dysplasia)
- Children who have cystic fibrosis or CLD (chronic lung disease)

HOW THIS MEDICINE IS GIVEN

- Palivizumab is given as a shot (IM injection), usually into the muscle in the top part of the leg.
- This medicine is given once a month during "RSV season." This is usually the 5 months from October to April. Your child's doctor will decide when to give the medicine. The dose depends on your child's weight.
- Palivizumab is usually given at the doctor's office or at home by a nurse. Your child will be watched closely for signs of an allergic reaction.



Picture 1 It's very important to have the shot every month on schedule.

IF YOU MISS A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT

- If your child misses the appointment when the shot is to be given, contact your doctor as soon as possible to reschedule the appointment.
- It is **very important** that your child receives palivizumab doses **on time each month** (every 25 to 30 days). If your child is ill at the time the injection is due, please tell the nurse that gives the shot. Depending on your child's condition, we may decide **NOT** to give the injection. Schedule another appointment as soon as possible.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- Pain in the place the shot was given. This should go away in 1 or 2 hours.
- Swelling where the shot was given. This should go away in a few hours.
- Clear, runny nose
- Rash over entire body
- Slight fever
- Loose stools

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your child's doctor **right away** if your child has:

- Deep cough that lasts more than 24 hours.
- Trouble breathing.
- A rash or swelling that does not go away in a few hours.
- Any side effects that continue or are very bothersome.

IF YOUR CHILD GETS THIS MEDICINE AT HOME

- Be sure to keep a record of when the medicine is given. You may use a calendar or the Helping Hand: *Medication Record*, HH-V-1.
- Some pharmacies may not have this medicine. Please ask your nurse to call your pharmacy before you leave the hospital to see if they have this medicine or can order it for you. You may also have the prescription filled at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Pharmacy.
- Don't stop giving this medicine or change the amount given without first talking with your child's doctor or pharmacist. Stopping the medicine could put your child at risk for a serious RSV lung infection.
- The doctor has prescribed this medicine **for your child only**. Don't give it to anyone else.
- If you are storing this medicine at home, it must be kept in the refrigerator until you take it to the doctor's office or clinic.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Some insurance plans do not cover this medicine, even though the doctor thinks the child qualifies. Check with your insurance company if you have questions about this.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Write down all your questions as you think of them. Bring this list with you when you see the doctor.

Your child's follow up appointment is on (date)_____ at (time) _____.