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Date: December 1, 2022

To: Pediatric providers
Coordinated care organizations (CCOs)

From: Nathan Roberts, Traditional Programs manager
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Medicaid Programs

Subject: Oregon Health Plan coverage of palivizumab for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) prophylaxis expanded to high-risk children from 12 to 24 months of age, effective immediately

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is expanding palivizumab eligibility to children from 12 months of age or younger to 24 months of age or younger who have any of the comorbidities in [OHA's prior authorization criteria for palivizumab](#). This expansion:

- Will last for the duration of [Governor Brown's emergency declaration](#) or the 2022-2023 RSV season, whichever is longer.
- Does not change the recommended number of doses or length of treatment at this time. OHA will monitor [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) clinical recommendations](#) and Oregon's [Weekly RSV Surveillance Report](#) to determine whether extending the number of doses is necessary.

Why is this happening?

OHA's goals in expanding coverage of palivizumab prophylaxis to this age group are to reduce pediatric hospitalizations and promote health equity. Data show that children with comorbidities recognized by the AAP experience the greatest reduction in hospitalizations from palivizumab prophylaxis. Because precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic reduced previous viral exposure and immunity, children 12 to 24 months of age with these comorbidities may benefit from palivizumab prophylaxis during this season.

What should you do?

For children 12 to 24 months who are likely at high risk for severe RSV:

- **Providers:** Please make parents and caregivers aware of this option to prevent severe RSV, and ask for prior authorization as required by the member's CCO or OHA.
- **CCOs:** Please ensure adequate palivizumab coverage for members, consistent with [OHA's criteria](#). These criteria provide general guidelines on medically appropriate and necessary use and may not apply to every individual's circumstances. Please evaluate medical appropriateness of each PA request or appeal based on the patient's individual circumstances.

Questions?

- **Providers:** For fee-for-service coverage, contact the Oregon Pharmacy Call Center at 888-202-2126. For CCO coverage, [contact the CCO](#).
- **CCOs:** Contact your [OHA Account Representative](#).

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.