

Protect children at greatest risk for RSV with Palivizumab (Synagis™)

If your child is at great risk for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infection, he or she may be eligible to receive Synagis. Synagis is not a vaccine, but an antibody that gives safe and effective protection against RSV following this immunization.

Your child may be eligible to receive Synagis if he or she:

- was born at a gestational age of less than 32 weeks and is less than 6 months old at the start of or during the RSV season
- was born at a gestational age of 33 to 35 weeks with certain risk factors
- is less than 2 years of age, has chronic lung disease such as bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and requires oxygen or medical treatment during the 6 months before the RSV season
- is less than 2 years of age and has significant heart disease requiring treatment
- has other medical conditions and your doctor recommends this treatment

If your child is eligible, your family doctor or pediatrician will give Synagis to your child. The RSV Clinic at McMaster Children's Hospital also provides Synagis treatment during the RSV season, from November to March.

Treatment with Synagis is a series of 5 injections (needles) during the RSV season. Your child will get one needle each month, usually starting in November and ending in March the following year. During Synagis treatment, your child can receive other immunizations.

The needles are given into your child's thigh muscle. The dose or amount of Synagis depends on your child's weight. For larger amounts, Synagis may have to be given as 2 injections; one in each leg. Mild side effects include slight swelling or redness at the injection site.

Synagis is not given to children with blood clotting problems, low platelets or previous reaction to Synagis.

If you have questions or would like more information, call your family

doctor or pediatrician. You may also call the RSV Clinic Nurse at the McMaster Children's Hospital. Leave a message including your name, your child's name, and your phone number. A staff member will return your call as soon as possible.

- **RSV Clinic Nurse: 905-521-2100, ext. 73908**
- **Medical Director RSV Clinic: Dr. Andrew Latchman**