



IWK Health

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Dear Physician, Executive Director/VP:

We are writing with materials describing the 2023-2024 RSV Infection Prophylaxis program for the coming winter.

In October 2003 the Nova Scotia Provincial Blood Coordinating Program (NSPBCP) began monitoring the use of the anti-RSV monoclonal antibody palivizumab (SYNAGIS®) in Nova Scotia. These activities were transitioned to the IWK Health Centre in August 2007. Currently a provincial working group of medical specialists, pharmacists, and others annually review Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) prophylaxis cost and utilization data, new evidence about safety and effectiveness of products, and make recommendations for the next season's Provincial RSV Infection Prophylaxis Guidelines and Utilization Management Program.

There are two changes to the program for the upcoming season that will be interest to health care providers and others at your institution. First, eligibility is now expanded to include infants up to 32 weeks gestational age 0 days, and secondly, a new long-acting anti-RSV antibody, may be available for some high-risk children in NS. At the time of writing the availability of this product, Nirsevimab, is not confirmed.

The RSV prevention program is offered in NS from December to April. Sometimes these dates change according to local epidemiology. We are following disease activity in case the prophylaxis program needs to start later or earlier.

Enclosed are the 2023/24 RSV Infection Prophylaxis Guidelines, the Utilization Management Program, a Nova Scotia request form and a provincial palivizumab inventory summary.

The IWK Health will continue to monitor the use of palivizumab, report utilization data and provide feedback on opportunities for collaboration and for refining the process for next year. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact Karen Chestney, Provincial Palivizumab Monitoring Nurse, at (902) 470-2723.

Sincerely,

Karen Chestney, RN
Provincial Palivizumab Monitoring Nurse
IWK Health

Copy: Provincial Palivizumab Working Group Members
Dr. David Sabapathy, Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Prince Edward Island
Gail Samaan, Health Consultant, Acute Care, New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness
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Enclosure

