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March 01, 2024

Re: Palivizumab RSV prevention program for 2023/24 ending effective March 8

Dear Partners in the Nova Scotia Palivizumab Utilization Management Program

The provincial palivizumab prophylaxis program runs each year from December to April, based on the Nova Scotia RSV season. The purpose of the program is to reduce the risk of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) associated hospitalization in infants at higher risk for complicated RSV. In the last two years the epidemiology of RSV changed, occurring earlier in the season than was the case pre-pandemic. This season the prevention program began mid November rather than waiting until December 5, the previously determined date.

Based on provincial RSV surveillance we are passed the peak of the annual epidemic thus prophylaxis for the 2023/24 RSV season will end effective March 8.

We will continue to monitor the incidence of RSV across the province in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. Should RSV begin unexpectedly to circulate out of season during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic a change in programming may be made.

Thank you for your care of patients in this program. The provincial website <https://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/palivizumab> has communication materials for the palivizumab program for health care providers and their patients, updates will be posted as needed.

Sincerely,

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