

**PURPOSE:**

To provide Synagis (Palivizumab) injections to children less than 2 years of age at risk for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Synagis contains no preservatives and must be administered within 6 hours of reconstitution.
2. All premature infants qualify for Synagis injections to prevent the occurrence of RSV.
3. All children under the age of 2 years with a chronic health condition qualify for Synagis injections to prevent the incidence of RSV.
4. After the patient receives the initial injection, monthly injections between intervals of 25 – 30 days are administered from October to April, the prime time for RSV transmission.
5. Anterolateral thigh is the preferred injection site. Prior to delivery of the medication, the injection site must be ascertained.
6. Physician orders must be obtained every 60 days.

**EQUIPMENT:**

Gloves

Digital scale for weighing patient

Alcohol wipes

Palivizumab vial

Sterile water vial

1-3 mL syringe, 1/2-1 inch needle

Bandage

Sharps disposal container

Stethoscope

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Identify the patient and explain procedure to patient and/or caregiver.
3. Obtain consent.
4. Assess patient for signs of infections or illness; document all findings in patient visit note.
5. Weigh patient and document weight in patient visit note.
6. Calculate dosage using the following formula:  
(Patient weight in kilogram x 15 mg divided by 100 mg/mL = dosage to be given).
7. To prepare Synagis for injection:
  - a. Wipe rubber stopper with alcohol.
  - b. Reconstitute powder Synagis:
    - (1) 100 mg vial with 1.0 mL of sterile water.
    - (2) 50 mg vial with 0.6 mL of sterile water.
    - (3) Gently swirl vial. DO NOT shake vial.
  - c. Allow the reconstituted vial to stand for approximately 20 minutes until the solution is clear.
  - d. Discard the used syringe.
  - e. If the Synagis comes constituted, remove from refrigerator 1 hour prior to administration.
8. Double check dosage calculation. If more than 1 mL is to be administered, volume must be given in separate doses in separate locations.
9. Cleanse area for injection with alcohol. Best site is the anterolateral thigh.
10. Using a new syringe, administer intramuscular injection to patient. Apply bandage at completion of injection.
11. Observe patient for adverse reaction(s) for 20 minutes.
12. Discard soiled materials following Standard Precautions.

**AFTER CARE:**

1. Document in patient's record:
  - a. Procedure and observations.
  - b. Vital signs and patient condition post-injection.
  - c. Patient's response to procedure.
  - d. Contact physician if patient is ill or has an elevated temperature.