


PALIVIZUMAB

- Prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in children at high risk of RSV disease²

Indication¹

Group	Eligibility criteria ¹
1	Infants who have severe chronic lung disease of prematurity, defined as supplemental oxygen requirement at term equivalent or on discharge from the neonatal unit; and are likely to: (a) be on oxygen at the start of the RSV season*; and (b**) be less than one year of age at the start of the RSV season*
2*	Infants with severe chronic lung disease of different aetiologies and who are on home oxygen and are less than one year of age at the start of the RSV season*
3**	Infants less than six months with congenital heart disease with significant left to right shunt awaiting surgical correction or who have pulmonary hypertension
4**	Babies less than one year of age at the start of the RSV season* who are at risk of RSV because of a severe immunodeficiency (congenital, acquired or immunosuppressed) and not on intravenous immunoglobulin
5**	Children having a bone marrow transplant with active RSV

Groups 2 to 5 unlikely to be relevant to neonatal population
** as determined by local protocols and location*
*** at the discretion of consultant paediatrician or paediatric cardiologist*

IM	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vial: 50 mg in 0.5 mL 100 mg in 1 mL 	
	Dosage ^{3,4}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 mg/kg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A course of five IM injections at one monthly intervals throughout the RSV season 	
	Preparation ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required. Do not dilute⁴. Do not shake the vial⁴ 	
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up prescribed dose Do not shake vial or medicine in syringe⁴ Intramuscular injection into thickest part of the vastus lateralis in the anterolateral thigh Divide volumes greater than 1 mL into 2 (or more) injections^{1,3} and administer into separate sites 	

Special considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraindications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known hypersensitivity to palivizumab or other humanised monoclonal antibodies⁴ RSV season may vary by location. Check local protocols Not indicated for children who have had RSV infection¹ Discontinue monthly prophylaxis if breakthrough RSV hospitalisation occurs^{1,3} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second episode unlikely in the same RSV season³
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required
Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not mix with other medications⁵
Incompatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not mix with other medications⁵
Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable
Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at 2–8 °C⁴. Refrigerate⁴. Do not freeze⁴
Side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common: fever, rash, rhinitis, wheeze, cough, diarrhoea, injection site reaction, cyanosis (in children with congenital heart disease)² Rare: anaemia, elevated liver enzymes, hypersensitivity (including anaphylaxis)²
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanised monoclonal antibody that neutralises and inhibits fusion of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) with the host cell, preventing its replication²
Abbreviations	ID infectious diseases, IM: intramuscular, RSV: respiratory syncytial virus, QCH: Queensland Children's Hospital,

Keywords

Monoclonal antibody, antiviral, RSV, respiratory syncytial virus, synagis, home oxygen, respiratory virus, chronic lung disease of prematurity, supplemental oxygen, vaccine

The Queensland Clinical Guideline *Neonatal Medicines* is integral to and should be read in conjunction with this monograph. Refer to the disclaimer. Destroy all printed copies of this monograph after use.

References

1. Queensland Children's Hospital. Palivizumab for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) prophylaxis in high risk paediatric patients (CHQ-GDL-01071 version 5) 2021.
2. Australian Medicines Handbook. Palivizumab. [Internet]. Adelaide: Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd; July 2022 [cited 2022 October 28]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au>.
3. Australian Medicines Handbook Children's Dosing Companion. Palivizumab. [Internet]. Adelaide: Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd; July 2022 [cited 2022 October 31]. Available from: <https://https://amhonline.amh.net.au>.
4. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Palivizumab: product information. [Internet]. Canberra: Australian Government; December 2021 [cited 2022 September 06]. Available from: <https://www.tga.gov.au>.
5. Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook. Nicolette Burridge, Keli Symons, editors. Palivizumab. 8th ed. [Internet]. New South Wales: Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA); August 2022 [cited 2022 October 31]. Available from: <https://aidh.hcn.com.au>.

Document history

ID number	Effective	Review	Summary of updates
NMedQ23.098-V1-R28	28/02/2023	28/02/2028	Endorsed by Queensland Neonatal Services Advisory Group (QNSAG)

QR code