



## Frequently Asked Questions about RSV

Amber Specialty Pharmacy has expertise in the management and treatment of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). While there is no vaccine to prevent RSV infection, Synagis is a medication that can help protect certain children who are at high risk of serious complications of RSV. This educational material will help you better understand RSV infection including risk and prevention, RSV symptoms, managing RSV medication and side effects.

### What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

---

RSV is a common, seasonal virus that affects most children by age two. RSV causes lung and airway infections which can lead to mild, cold-like symptoms in adults and healthy children. However, in high-risk infants RSV can lead to severe lung infections.

### Who is at risk for severe RSV illness?

---

Premature infants, children less than 2-years-old with congenital heart disease or chronic lung disease are at a higher risk. Children who have weakened immune systems are also at a higher risk for lung infections caused by RSV.

### When is RSV season?

---

Even though you can catch RSV at any time of year, most infections are during the winter months. RSV season usually lasts from November to April in the United States. This timing can vary based on region.

### How does RSV spread?

---

RSV spreads easily and enters the body through the eyes, nose or mouth. The virus is spread through direct and indirect contact with someone who has the virus. Direct contact is physical contact with someone who has the virus. This includes touching, kissing or breathing in droplets that are sent into the air by coughing and sneezing. Indirect contact can happen by touching a surface with the virus and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth. The virus can live for several hours on surfaces like countertops, toys and unwashed hands.



## How can I reduce the risk of my baby getting RSV?

During RSV season, practice the following:

- Wash your baby's bedding often.
- Wash your hands often, especially before touching your baby.
- Keep your baby away from crowds.
- Keep your baby away from people with colds.
- Don't allow people to smoke near your baby.
- Limit the time your baby spends in risky settings, like daycare centers, if possible.

## What are the symptoms of RSV?

Symptoms of RSV typically appear 4-6 days after coming in contact with the virus. Older children often only have mild, cold-like symptoms. This includes a cough, runny or stuffy nose and a low-grade fever. More severe symptoms that can result in high-risk infants include:

- Rapid or labored breathing
- Wheezing
- Severe cough
- High fever
- Bluish skin due to a lack of oxygen

Contact your child's doctor if your child has any of these severe symptoms.

## What can I do to ease my child's symptoms at home?

In non-severe cases, symptoms usually go away in 10-14 days. Ways to ease your child's symptoms at home include:

- More frequent breast/bottle-feeding to replace lost fluids.
- Keep your child in an upright position to ease breathing.

## What kind of preventative treatments are there?

A medication called Synagis® (palivizumab) is available to prevent severe RSV illness in high-risk children. However, it cannot cure or treat children already suffering from serious RSV.

Synagis is given by intramuscular injection at your doctor's office. It is given once a month throughout RSV season.

## Are there side effects from the medication?

Most infants who receive Synagis have few or very minor side effects, which may include:

- Low fever
- Cold symptoms
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Injection site reaction

Contact your child's doctor right away if your child has any of these serious side effects:

- High fever
- Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including rash, itching, swelling or trouble breathing
- Ear pain, drainage or tugging at the ear
- Warmth or swelling of the ear
- Unusual bruising

## Amber Specialty Pharmacy is here to help.

We offer guidance and support through our dedicated team of healthcare experts. From the beginning, we help you with the enrollment process and review your insurance coverage. We explore financial assistance opportunities to help you lower your medication costs whenever possible. Our pharmacists review your prescriptions with you - including how to take your medication and manage any side effects. Pharmacists are available 24/7 to assist you when you have questions. Our Registered Nurse and Registered Dietitian offer personalized consultations to assist you with any medically-based questions and nutritional care. We stay in touch with you regularly to remind you when it is time to refill your prescriptions. We are always here to help.

This information is intended for educational purposes only. The material is not a substitute for professional help or medical diagnosis. It is important that you consult a medical professional if this information leads you to believe there is a concern for you or your patient(s). The diagnosis and treatment of all physical and/or psychological disorders requires a trained professional.