PALIVIZUMAB

ACTION and USES
Palivizumab is a humanised monoclonal antibody active against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) subtype A and B. It is used from October to February inclusive for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease requiring hospitalisation caused by RSV in:

- **Preterm infants with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)** defined as having an oxygen dependency or respiratory support need at 36 weeks corrected gestational age **AND** whose birth date and gestation correspond to the table below
- Babies with significant respiratory disease, born at any gestation, **requiring home oxygen at the start of the season**
- Babies with significant congenital heart disease or severe combined immunodeficiency disease (these are managed by other teams)

	Gestational age at birth				
Date of birth	≤24+0	24+1 - 28+0	28+1 - 32+0	32+1 – 34+0	≥34+1
1st Jan – 31st March	☑				
1st April – 30th June	☑	☑			
1st July – 16th Aug	☑	☑	☑		
17th Aug – 30th Sept	☑	☑	☑	☑	
1st Oct – 31st Dec	☑	☑	☑	☑	

E.g., A baby born on 12th June at 25+3w, who develops BPD **is** eligible to receive palivizumab
A baby born on 18th February at 24+2w, who develops BPD **is not** eligible for palivizumab (unless they remain in home oxygen on 1st October)

A patient list of eligible babies is also available on BadgerNet (*Patient lists/Diagnoses/RSV prophylaxis*)

DOSAGE
15mg/kg = 0.15ml/kg, at monthly intervals during the RSV season, starting just prior to discharge (<48h).
RSV season is usually from the beginning of October to the beginning of March. **Maximum of 5 doses.**

ADMINISTRATION
By intramuscular injection, preferably in the anterolateral aspect of the thigh. An injection volume of greater than 1ml should be administered in divided doses in two sites. If given at the same time as routine immunisations, it should preferably be given in a different limb, but, a separate site at least 2.5cm apart on the same limb is acceptable. It is not necessary to observe a specific time interval if given at a different time period as routine immunisations.
Document the immunisation in Badger under 'Procedures/events' completing fully the relevant input form details.

RECONSTITUTION
It is available in ampoules containing 50mg in 0.5ml or 100mg in 1ml in a ready to use solution. DO NOT SHAKE the vial.

INCOMPATIBILITIES
Should not be mixed with any other product.

STORAGE
It is stored in a refrigerator (2ºC to 8ºC). Do not allow to freeze.

MONITORING
As for other immunisations, 24h continuous monitoring. Observe for common side effects such as pyrexia, apnoea, rash, swelling at injection site and fever. Other rare reactions reported include thrombocytopaenia, anaphylaxis, convulsion and urticaria.