

# Synagis

## **What is Synagis?**

Synagis is a man made antibody to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a virus that can cause serious illness or death in children. It is NOT a vaccine. Synagis gives your baby a dose of virus-fighting substances called antibodies to help prevent serious RSV infections. (also see hand out on RSV)

## **Why does my baby need Synagis?**

Your baby was either premature with lung disease, has a heart condition, or has some other lung or heart issue and is full term. Your baby is probably going home during RSV season (usually around October through April in Wisconsin)

## **How is Synagis given?**

Synagis is given by a shot, usually in the thigh.

## **My baby only needs to get this shot once?**

There are only enough antibodies in one shot to last about one month. Your baby will need to get shots once a month during the RSV season. It is *very* important that you do not miss a dose.

Depending on your child's lung/heart situation, he/she may also need shots during their second RSV season.

RSV is the #1 cause of hospitalization in babies under one year of age. Synagis has been used in more than one million children in the US since its introduction in 1998.

## **So, my baby won't get RSV if he gets the Synagis?**

Your baby could still get RSV, but the chance is lessened and the illness may not be as severe.