



**MEDICAL CARE POLICY ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

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**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 8**

February 19, 1999

Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Susan Tucker, Acting Director

**NOTE:** Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

**Coverage of Synagis and Rotashield**

Managed Care Organizations are required to expand their formularies to include new drugs or equivalents that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Synagis (palivizumab) has recently been approved by the FDA for use in the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract diseases caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in pediatric patients at high risk of RSV disease. The Program expects MCOs to cover Synagis when prescribed appropriately.

RotaShield is a new oral vaccine used to immunize infants and children against rotavirus, a major cause of epidemic acute gastroenteritis. This is the first and currently the only vaccine approved for use in the prevention of rotaviral gastroenteritis in infants and should also be covered by MCOs when appropriately prescribed.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Manager for Pharmacy Services at 410-767-1455.