Cost Analysis of a Pharmacist-Dose Adjusted Synagis® Program at a Hospital-Owned Home Infusion Pharmacy

Colin Pearson, PharmD; Emma Huepfel, PharmD, MS

Background

- Synagis® (Palivizumab) is a monoclonal antibody indicated for prematurely-born infants to protect them from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections.
- Synagis® is dosed according to a weight-based scale each month throughout the RSV season. Newborn infants can receive up to five total doses of this medication.
- Patients are referred to our institution from their hospital providers where several members of the home infusion interdisciplinary team are tasked with continuing the care for each patient.
- Updated weights are provided by nurses who visit the patient in their homes.
- Pharmacists review patients’ weights and calculate doses based on this information.
- Pharmacy technicians play a key role in this process and spend a significant amount of time organizing key stakeholders – pharmacists, nurses, insurance payors, and medication delivery services.
- Pharmacy technician coordinators ensure each dose of Synagis® obtains prior authorization approval from patients’ insurance providers before the medication can be administered by the nurse.

Objectives

- Determine the financial impact of this organization’s Synagis® program to understand the benefits and risks of expanding this service.
- Quantify revenues generated and costs incurred surrounding several factors of this organization’s Synagis® program.
- Evaluate and compare previous year’s financial data to understand opportunities this organization could take advantage of.

Methods

- Single-site, health-system owned home infusion pharmacy.
- Financial data gathered from key stakeholders:
  - Pharmacists
  - Resource nurses
  - Technician coordinators
  - Intake team
- Data Analysis:
  - Descriptive statistics will be used to collect means, medians and percent changes for yearly financial analysis.

Cost Analysis

Factors Contributing to the Cost of the Synagis® Program

- Labor
- Supplies
- Waste
- Delivery

Figure 1. Several factors impact the cost of this health-system owned home infusion pharmacy’s Synagis® program. To the left, there are many considerations that go into the overall cost of this pharmacist-dose adjusted program.

References