PAAC December 2019 Report

Sharing updates from Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

**Highlights** from our activities:

1. PAAC has heard from many members on Aetna’s repeated down-coding practice. PAAC member Gene Hershorin and AAP coding and payer advocacy staff have arranged a call with Aetna representatives in January to discuss/address this. Stay tuned for follow-up.

2. PAAC’s Chip Harbaugh who is assigned to UnitedHealthcare issues continues to address with UHC their recent efforts to request documentation notes for sick and well visits prior to paying submitted claims. Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We will be reporting back after that call.

3. PAAC member Gail Schonfeld continues to push Humana and Tricare to address coverage for fluoride varnish and removing CPT code 99188 from the “No Pay” list. The letter template drafted by the Section on Oral Health is a useful resource to advocate for coverage and payment. The template letter is available at the AAP Oral Health Initiatives website at https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Oral-Health/Pages/Payer-Advocacy.aspx and practices can download on their own letterhead to utilize in appealing inappropriate carrier claims denials for coverage and payment for topical fluoride varnish application by pediatricians.

4. PAAC is collaborating with the Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, the Council on Children with Disabilities and the Autism Subcommittee to develop strategies to promote payer uptake of the recently published autism clinical report Some states are putting in barriers to diagnosis (such as only can be made by a specialist or have to have an expensive screening tool administered in order to receive the diagnosis.) If a payer in your state is doing something else to make this difficult, please reach out to PAAC member Gene Hershorin (EHershorin@med.miami.edu) or Lou Terranova (lterranova@aap.org) directly.

5. PAAC is working with COCN and other key AAP groups to make sure that membership has appropriate resources to support changes to E/M coding and documentation that come into effect 1/1/21.

Often the New Year brings new payer tactics so please report them to us so we can assist.

Thank you for all that you do to help the children, families and colleagues of your region!

**Request from PAAC:** if you have any problems with payment, please reach out to us by filling out the [https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-transformation/getting-](https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-transformation/getting-).
Hassle Factor form (link on the bottom of every SOAPM email), or emailing members directly. PLEASE consider including email contact for your biller or office manager who might best provide additional information such as ERAs so that we can be more effective in our advocacy efforts. In addition, if we reach out to you to follow-up, please respond and include the appropriate team members in your organization who might be able to provide additional details if needed.

Please help us help you!
Sue Kressly, PAAC Chair

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