Sharing updates from Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

**Highlights** from our activities:

1. Reminder to share the healthychildren.org resources on healthcare finance and payment with your families. [https://healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/health-insurance/Pages/default.aspx](https://healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/health-insurance/Pages/default.aspx) PAAC is looking into getting these materials more easily found by giving the website team tags/search words and requesting health insurance have it’s own tab.

2. PAAC working on an additional article for Healthy Children.org on “well visit and sick visit” on the same day. Anyone who already has developed resources for their practice they are willing to share and/or assist Sue Kressly in writing the article, please reach out to Sue at skressly@kresslypediatrics.com.

3. Utilizing established contacts with Humana Military, PAAC member Gail Schonfeld was able to quickly resolve a member reported issue on denials for Flumist for Tricare beneficiaries. Humana (the Tricare East managed care contractor) was able to reverse their denials and providers do not need to resubmit claims.

4. Independence Blue Cross in PA notified network providers they will not pay for visits where EHR templates and macros are used as part of “cloned documentation” in which identical documentation is used to describe an encounter. An AAP letter is in progress and will be sent shortly (we will share this letter when we have it.)

5. The PAAC Medicaid workgroup is reconvening in December. The workgroup continues to look for a point person in every state to coordinate communication and efforts. If you are interested, please reach out to your Pediatric Council, your chapter Executive Director and/or Lou Terranova (<lTerranova@aap.org>) or Sue Kressly (skressly@kresslypediatrics.com) directly.

6. PAAC working with Academy leadership on an potential opportunity to influence a Highmark Quality/Value program which we are hoping to use a test case for influencing other Value Based Programs.

7. Several ALF resolutions brought forth by PAAC members were submitted for the 2020 ALF. We look forward to involving others in the discussion and encourage questions and comments from members.

8. At the Pediatric Council forum at the NCE PAAC was delighted at the robust contributions from those who attended (30 attendees representing 19 chapters.) Follow up items included connecting Pediatric Councils in 9 states who have asked for additional support/mentorship. PAAC is exploring ways to best offer support.
9. For Pediatric Councils and individual practices looking for resources to help with payment challenges, remember the following Issue Guidance resources are available on the AAP member website and you are free to download and use:
   a. Addressing automatic down-coding by payers
   b. Payment for instrument based screening
   c. Others available on the website (link above) and additional ones in development

10. If you are wondering what happens in between these reports: the entire PAAC has a monthly web meeting. Depending on the topics discussed, guests from other committees/councils and sections may be invited. In between meetings PAAC members work with payer advocacy and coding staff on payer specific issues. Lou Terranova (the AAP staff manager for PAAC, COCHF and technical support to Chapter Pediatric Councils) and PAAC chair, Sue Kressly have weekly calls to advance activities and member reported items with payers. Starting in December, SOAPM and PAAC chairs will have a call every other month to collaborate on efforts to support members on practice management and payment related topics.

11. PAAC is working with COCN and other key 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.

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-paid/Pages/Hassle-Factor-Form-Concerns-with-Payers.aspx 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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All others AND Medicaid, for now....please process through the Hassle Factor Form

Thanks for your support!
Sue Kressly