Sharing updates from Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:
1. United Healthcare and Aetna have both confirmed they are extending Telehealth payments through the end of the year.
2. PAAC was able to investigate on behalf of our members in Connecticut that Aetna had a problem with flu vaccine administration code payment. This has been addressed and claims will be re-processed.
3. To address concerns with the Cigna Site of Care: High Tech Radiology Policy, AAP payer advocacy has reached out to Cigna to facilitate a discussion with AAP Section on Radiology to address concerns with the Cigna policy directing children 10 years of age and older away from a hospital-based imaging department or facility.
4. PAAC is prepared to send an email to all the national payers regarding payment for 99072 as soon as CMS publishes the relative value. In addition, we intend to create an Issue Guidance for members to use to advocate for payment if they are having difficulties. The definition of the CPT 99072 is Additional supplies, materials, and preparation time required and provided by the physician or other qualified health care professional and/or clinical staff over and above those usually included in an office visit or other service(s), when performed during a nationally declared public health emergency due to respiratory transmitted infectious disease for any in-office service provided during the Public Health Emergency (which includes sick visits, well visits and immunization only visits.) Information on reporting this code may be found at the AAP Coding for COVID document.
5. PAAC’s Chip Harbaugh and Lou Terranova continue to meet with United Healthcare and most recently had a call with UHC subsidiary OPTUM along with COCN staff to discuss their recent scrubbing algorithms to require documentation in order to be paid for well visits and other services. OPTUM staff reported they are “investigating” and promise to report back.
6. The AAP is partnering with the other primary care specialty societies to reach out to the payers regarding the proposed 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) relative value unit (RVU) and related Medicare payment increase for the revised Office Visit codes (99202-99215) that will become effective January 1, 2021.
7. More education materials regarding 2021 Coding and Documentation changes expected in October (including the much-anticipated PediaLink module).

JOIN US IN THANKING LOU TERRANOVA FOR HIS 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY, PEDIATRICIANS and PATIENTS and FAMILIES!!!

Highlights from our activities:

As part of PAAC monthly activities, we discussed a variety of subjects including:
1. Ongoing conversations about creating educational information and a model for Value Based Payment for Children.
2. Ongoing conversations about continuing payment for Telehealth (which PAAC continues to monitor).
3. Upcoming implications of 2021 Documentation and Coding changes

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 [Hassle Factor Form](https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-transformation/getting-paid/Pages/Hassle-Factor-Form-Concerns-with-Payers.aspx) (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