



PAAC July 2021 Report

Sharing updates from Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

PAAC is tracking the number of items submitted through the Hassle Factor form. For the first half of 2021 (January to June), we would like to share the following statistics:

- 136 submitted Hassle Factor Forms
- Top 5 submitting states: New York (12), Maryland (11), Texas (11), Florida (9), Illinois (9)
- Top 3 payers: BC/BS all plans (32: 24% of all reported issues), UHC (30: 22% issues), Aetna (16:12%)

Please help us to help you and report your issues through the [Hassle Factor Form](#). There is power in numbers!

Highlights from our activities:

1. The quarterly Pediatric Council Meeting was held on July 29th where the following was discussed:
 - a. UHC COVID point of care testing: at this time, they are not adding the additional testing code (CPT 87426) to their list of appealable codes for higher payment consideration
 - b. Prepayment down-coding: discussed prevalence, impacts and strategies
 - c. Discussed how PAAC can best support the great work being done by Pediatric Councils and what they most need from us
 - d. We celebrated Ohio Medicaid's success in significantly increasing COVID vaccine administration payment to > twice the CMS valuation. Strategizing how to increase payment for regular vaccines next!
 - e. Members were asked to update the list of [Peds Council contacts by state](#) and send any changes to tsalaway@aap.org
2. PAAC has a new Aetna Medical Director liaison. We look forward to connecting with them.
3. PAAC continues to discuss the impacts of prepayment down-coding and delays in appropriate payment. We are exploring a potential "checklist" for practices as well as other resources and education opportunities. Practices can file a [HIPAA Administrative Simplification Violation complaint](#) if they feel it is appropriate and follow-up with PAAC on responses/outcomes.
4. PAAC has had some preliminary complaints about UHC asking for specific documentation for E/M visits billed in conjunction with a COVID test if there was ambiguity of diagnosis codes. Please fill out a Hassle Factor Form if you are experiencing this issue.
5. PAAC has had some preliminary reports regarding payers updating contracts to the 2020 RVU valuations in order to avoid increases in payments reflected in the 2021 value sets. Please reach out to us if you are experiencing this, but also be prepared to understand what is in your contract regarding the payer's unilateral ability to change the referencing valuation sets.

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 at <https://form.jotform.com/Subspecialty/aapcodinghotline> (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

Contacts:

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The "Blues":

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All others please process through the Hassle Factor Form
Thanks for your support!
Sue Kressly