



March/April 2022 PAAC Report

Sharing updates from the Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

1. As part of PAAC monthly activities, we met with the AAP Mental Health Leadership Workgroup in March and discussed barriers to integration of mental health services into the medical home.
2. PAAC and COCHF (the Committee on Child Health Financing) had their semi-annual meeting in April. The committees discussed many topics, including the following:
 - a. Downcoding – PAAC would appreciate any information on which payers are downcoding, how often claims are getting downcoded, and if practices are successful in appealing and overturning. Please report through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#) to help us learn more about your experience with payer downcoding.
 - b. Mental Health – PAAC is continuing to explore how to remove barriers and support mental/behavioral health care, including through sustainable business models and appropriate payment.
 - c. Telehealth and the need to keep the conversation around health care, with technology-enabled health care being a part of that.
 - d. Value-based payment models
3. The quarterly Pediatric Council meeting was also held in April. The following topics were discussed:
 - a. Quality - The group discussed that the time may be opportune to get involved in pediatric quality measure development. Efforts are underway to explore collaboration and appropriate representation in developing pediatric measures in the future.
 - b. Medicaid redeterminations – the unwinding of the public health emergency will have an impact on current Medicaid enrollees who will undergo redeterminations.
 - c. Pediatric Council successes – a Kansas Pediatric Council member successfully resolved an issue where a major payer was not following AMA CPT guidelines for paying for immunization administration by using the HIPAA [ASETT tool](#) to file a complaint for a code set violation along with documentation on appropriate use of immunization administration codes.
4. PAAC has heard of issues with payment below the acquisition cost with MenQuadfi. Please report any instances of this through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
5. UHC is launching a tiered benefit design for major imaging services in which members will pay a lower cost share when they receive imaging services from facilities that are considered Designated Diagnostic Providers (DDP). After recent conversations, UHC will be exempting children under the age of 7 from the DDP program for major imaging services.
6. PAAC tries to review national payer update newsletters on policy changes that impact pediatrics. Please bring any concerning payer policy updates to our attention!

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, coverage, or payer policies, please reach out to us via [the Coding Hotline/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 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 please process through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#)

Thanks for your support!