



May 2022 PAAC Report

Sharing updates from the Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

1. UHC identified some claims for COVID immunization administration from 3/15/21 to 6/30/21 that were paid less than the CMS rate and not automatically reprocessed at the CMS rate. They are working on correcting this. If you have examples of claims for COVID immunization administration from 3/15/21 to 6/30/21 that were paid less than the CMS rate, please contact [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
2. A new Cigna policy planned to be effective in August will impact evaluation and management (E/M) codes (99212-99215) and modifier 25 when billed with a minor procedure. Under this new policy, office notes must be submitted, and the E/M service will be denied if supporting documentation is not received. PAAC is aware and addressing with Cigna and will provide any updates on this policy.
3. Due to member reports through the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form, PAAC became aware of a delay by EmblemHealth in loading the new COVID immunization administration codes (0071A, 0072A) in their system. EmblemHealth states that they have reprocessed impacted claims as of early May. Please report any ongoing issues through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
4. Cigna has been correcting an earlier issue in which well-child visits were being denied due to incorrect diagnosis code (ex. Z00.129). Cigna previously communicated that they were putting the applicable Unacceptable Principle Diagnosis Codes (R38) Reimbursement Policy on hold until mid-May while they were correcting the issue. If you continue to see any issues with denials due to incorrect diagnosis code, please report through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
5. PAAC has heard of some payers still not updating their systems for MenQuadfi and Vaxelis. Please report any instances of this through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
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!
7. The next Pediatric Council meeting is scheduled for July 13. Please contact tsalaway@aap.org for more information.

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!