



September & October 2022 PAAC Report

Sharing updates from the AAP Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee (PAAC):

- PAAC and the AAP Committee on Child Health Financing had their semi-annual meeting in October. The committees discussed many topics, including the following:
 - **Downcoding:** the AMA has developed a new resource to support physicians in navigating payer downcoding. The document, "[Payer Evaluation and Management \(E/M\) Downcoding Programs - What You Need to Know](#)," includes information on how to recognize and respond to payer downcoding. The AMA has also shared sample appeal letters for [E/M](#) and [procedure](#) downcoding.
 - **Mental health:** PAAC reviewed barriers to mental health integration, including inadequate payment. PAAC is continuing to have conversations with payers on ways to better support mental health integration.
 - **Value-based care:** PAAC discussed resources that may be helpful for members and/or payers related to pediatric alternative payment models and value-based care. PAAC looks forward to collaborating with the Libby Fellow in the future.
 - **Payer implementation guidance:** The committee is exploring methods to distill information on AAP guidance for payers.
 - **Commercialization of COVID vaccines:** PAAC discussed what this transition to commercialization will look like with payers and what this means for pediatricians.
- **Pediatric Council updates:**
 - The quarterly Pediatric Council meeting was held at the National Conference and Exhibition in October. Pediatric Council members shared and celebrated the successes they have achieved over the past year.
 - A Pediatric Council quick start guide has been developed to assist chapters in getting started with a pediatric council. Please contact [PAAC staff](#) for more information.
 - The next quarterly Pediatric Council meeting is scheduled for January 17.
- **Vixelis denials – UnitedHealthcare:** PAAC addressed denials for VAXELIS™ (CPT 90697) with UHC. UHC identified an incorrect system edit related to NDC information for CPT 90697. UHC is identifying claims that were erroneously denied and automatically reprocessing these claims. If you have not seen impacted claims reprocess, please reach out to [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).

- **Vaccine administration denials – Aetna:** PAAC has heard of Aetna denying vaccine administration codes due to being add-on codes or incidental to the primary procedure. If you have experienced this, please submit to [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
- 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 payer policies, programs, or processes, please reach out to us via [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#) or by emailing members directly. If we follow up with you, please respond and include the appropriate team members (such as biller or office manager) in your organization who might be able to provide additional details if needed so that we can be more effective in our advocacy efforts.

Please help us help you!

Greg Barabell, PAAC Chair

PAAC Contacts

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All others, please process through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#)

Thanks for your support!