



## August 2022 PAAC Report

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

- **Bivalent COVID-19 Boosters:** New codes for bivalent COVID-19 boosters were published August 31, 2022 on the [AMA website](#). PAAC is following the situation closely and advocating for national payers to update systems with these new codes as soon as possible. PAAC will share any helpful materials or communications for payers once available.
- **Well & Sick Visit with Modifier 25 Policy – Elevance Health:** Elevance Health (formerly Anthem) recently announced a new policy in which they would bundle a problem-oriented Evaluation and Management (E/M) service billed with a Preventive Medicine Service if not determined to be a significant, separately identifiable service based on review of the claim. After discussion with the AAP, Anthem decided to exclude pediatrics (services for patients under 22 years old) from this policy.
- **COVID Vaccine administration – Cigna:** Some members have reported that payment for COVID vaccine administration has changed and is well below CMS rates, beginning in 2022. We are looking into this further. Please report to [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#) if you are experiencing this issue.
- **Pediatric Council meetings:** *The next Pediatric Council meeting will take place at the National Conference & Exhibition in Anaheim on Saturday, October 8.* If there are specific topics you'd like to discuss, please send to PAAC staff at [tsalaway@aap.org](mailto:tsalaway@aap.org).
- 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

- **Anthem:** Kerry Fierstein, [KFierstein@alliedphysiciansgroup.com](mailto:KFierstein@alliedphysiciansgroup.com)
- **Aetna:** Wyndolyn Bell, [wendybell513@gmail.com](mailto:wendybell513@gmail.com)
- **The "Blues":**
  - **East:** Herschel Lessin [kidmd@optonline.net](mailto:kidmd@optonline.net) (BCBS carriers in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia) and
  - **West:** George Rogu [drrogu@rbkpediatrics.com](mailto:drrogu@rbkpediatrics.com) (BCBS carriers in Arizona, Arkansas, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming)
- **Cigna:** Shannon Fox-Levine, [sfoxlevine@pbpediatrics.com](mailto:sfoxlevine@pbpediatrics.com)
- **Humana:** Christoph Diasio, [cdiasio@gmail.com](mailto:cdiasio@gmail.com)
- **UnitedHealthcare:** Michael Chamberlin, [mikechamberlin3@gmail.com](mailto:mikechamberlin3@gmail.com)
- **Medicaid Plans:** Greg Barabell, [greg.barabell@clearbellsolutions.com](mailto:greg.barabell@clearbellsolutions.com)

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

Thanks for your support!