



July 2022 PAAC Report

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

- **Vaccine administration denials – Aetna:** Members reported issues with Aetna denying vaccine administration. Note that Aetna accepts the -25 modifier on the E/M or the -59 modifier on the admin code. Aetna identified an issue where, if you didn't originally submit the claims with the appropriate modifier, then the system would still deny this if you submitted a corrected claim with the modifiers. They are working on resolving this issue and identifying impacted claims to be automatically reworked.
- **Modifier 25 with minor procedure policy – Cigna:** Cigna previously announced a policy that would impact evaluation and management (E/M) codes (99212-99215) and modifier 25 when billed with a minor procedure. Cigna [announced](#) that this policy has been delayed and will not go into effect in August as originally planned.
- **Vixelis denials – UnitedHealthcare:** PAAC heard of UHC denying VAXELIS™ (CPT 90697) due to incorrect NDC code. UHC identified the issue where the correct NDC information was not loaded to CPT 90697. They are currently correcting this issue and testing their fix, and we are awaiting communication from them about claims reprocessing for claims denied in error.
- **Pediatric Council meetings:** The quarterly Pediatric Council was held in July, during which the above payer matters were discussed. *The next Pediatric Council meeting will take place at the National Conference & Exhibition in Anaheim on Saturday, October 8.*
- 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!

Greg Barabell, PAAC Chair

PAAC Contacts

- **Anthem:** Kerry Fierstein, KFierstein@alliedphysiciansgroup.com
- **Aetna:** Wyndolyn Bell, wendybell513@gmail.com
- **The "Blues":**
 - **East:** Herschel Lessin 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 (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
- **Humana:** Christoph Diasio, cdiasio@gmail.com
- **UnitedHealthcare:** Michael Chamberlin, mikechamberlin3@gmail.com
- **Medicaid Plans:** Greg Barabell, greg.barabell@clearbellsolutions.com

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

Thanks for your support!