



November/December 2021 PAAC Report

Sharing updates from the Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

1. PAAC has heard of some issues related to COVID-19 immunization administration: payment below CMS rates (~\$40) for COVID-19 immunization administration despite advocacy for payment to be at or above CMS rates, payers not updating their system immediately with the new codes for the Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine, or putting the vaccine to patient responsibility. Please continue to report through [the Coding Hotline \(otherwise known as the Hassle Factor form\)](#) so we can track and advocate.
2. After continued advocacy with UnitedHealthcare (UHC) on appropriate payment for COVID-19 testing, UHC has added rapid antigen testing (including CPT 87426) to the COVID-19 diagnostic testing amendment for increased payment. UHC also reports that they are extending increased payment for COVID-19 testing into 2022 for any providers that have signed and returned the amendment; more details to come later. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact UHC at covidpediatrictest@uhc.com or 866-229-2921.
3. The AAP discussed concerns with UHC about their policy on intravenous iron replacement therapy for children with iron deficiency anemia. UHC reports that they are evaluating changes needed to the policy.
4. 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](#).
5. Some members have raised concerns around medically unlikely edits for CPT 96127. This is especially important as best practice is to increase behavioral and mental health screenings as the mental health crisis for children worsens. CMS has set MUE of 2 for CPT 96127. The AAP Coding team is working on addressing this with CMS.
6. The next Pediatric Council meeting is scheduled for January 12. If your region does not have a Pediatric Council and you are interested in attending, please contact tsalaway@aap.org.
7. PAAC tries to review payer update newsletters on policy changes that impact pediatrics. Please bring any concerning payer policy updates to our attention!
8. We have heard from some members that Aetna is paying some vaccines below purchase costs. PAAC is engaged in conversations with Aetna on this topic. If this impacts you, please reach out to us through [the Coding Hotline/Hassle Factor Form](#).
9. Interested in joining PAAC? Please reach out to skressly@kresslypediatrics.com to discuss and/or answer the AAP's call for applications!

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!