



November 2022 – January 2023 PAAC Report

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

- **Cigna COVID vaccine denials:** PAAC heard from members in multiple states that they were experiencing issues with Cigna denying claims for COVID vaccines. Members reported issues with payment for vaccine administration for reason of being experimental, investigational, or unproven. Cigna is working on resolving this issue.
- **UHC COVID testing payment:** Some members reported issues with UHC recouping payment or no longer paying at the increased rates for providers who signed the COVID testing amendment. PAAC is looking into this issue with UHC.
- **UHC PCV 15 Denials:** PAAC recently learned of denials for PCV 15 (CPT 90671) because “the age requirement for this procedure has not been met.” PAAC is working with UHC to ensure their systems have been updated with the recent recommendations for PCV 15 use in children.
- **Palivizumab prophylaxis for the 22-23 RSV Season:** The AAP sent a letter to major payers asking them to update payer policies to allow for more than 5 doses of palivizumab and pay adequately for all doses in alignment with recently released [interim guidance on use of palivizumab prophylaxis](#). This letter was provided to Chapters and Pediatric Council members to share with local/regional payers, including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.
- **Pediatric Council updates:**
 - The quarterly AAP Pediatric Council meeting was held on January 17. In addition to topics above, the following topics were discussed:
 - i. SOAPM payment advocacy grant: the AAP Section on Administration and Practice Management (SOAPM) is requesting proposals for payment advocacy grants for AAP Chapters. The award can be used for initiatives aimed at improved payment for pediatric services. Applications are due February 22, 2023, and selections will be made by March 19, 2023.
 - ii. Pediatric council activities: PAAC would like to create a general job description for chapters to use for Pediatric Council members. Please submit any ideas on typical activities of Pediatric Council members to [PAAC staff](#). Additionally, PAAC would be interested in hearing Pediatric Council success stories to show the impact of our collective initiatives.
 - iii. Pediatric council member, Dr Becky Peterson, shared the success of Wisconsin raising their payment rate for vaccine administration.

- 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.
- 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
- **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 & Humana Military/HealthNet (Tricare East/West):** 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!