PAAC Monthly Report
July/August 2020

Sharing updates from Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee:

**Highlights** from our activities:

1. PAAC continues to work with United Healthcare on their practice of requiring records requests in order to get paid for well visits. It appears this is from Optum scrubbing software and is likely impacting more than United Healthcare. United Healthcare has informed us they are working on a resolution which we will share as soon as available.

2. PAAC has been getting reports that in some cases costs for COVID-19 testing have been being pushed to patient responsibility and we anticipate limitations on testing per patient. Communication has been sent to the national commercial carriers to get clarity on COVID testing payment policies and ask for transparency that we can share with members.

3. The Annual Leadership Forum top 10 included as #5 Developing a Pediatric Model for Value Based Payment which is work that PAAC has been discussing for the past several years. Much more to come on this.

   Resolved: That the Academy convene a task force or working group as the leaders in child health, with the goal of defining the specifics of an appropriate Value Based Payment Model for pediatrics including risk adjustment and considerations for the multiple factors that impact child health and costs of delivering appropriate care.

Please note that the Resolutions and related documents are all available on the Annual Leadership Forum Website [here](#). Users will need their My Account ID and password to access the page.

4. PAAC is aware that the 2021 E/M coding and documentations will likely have impact on pediatric practices and urges practices to begin to collect baseline data so we have information as comparison next year. Please explore the [downloadable spreadsheet found here](#) and review your 2019 data and eventually your 2020 data (2020 impacted by COVID-19 important but also want prior year.)

5. PAAC has initiated an internal discussion among PAAC members whether having hospital staff privileges by primary care pediatricians remains relevant since in many regions of the country inpatient and outpatient pediatrics has been separated. PAAC is currently brainstorming advocacy strategies on this topic.

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, please reach out to us by filling out the [https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-transformation/getting-paid/Pages/Hassle-Factor-Form-Concerns-with-Payers.aspx](https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-transformation/getting-paid/Pages/Hassle-Factor-Form-Concerns-with-Payers.aspx) 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 such as ERAs 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

Contacts:
**Anthem:** Betsy Peterson, felixwesley1998@gmail.com
**Aetna:** Gene Hershorin, EHershorin@med.miami.edu
**The "Blues":**
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
Michael Chamberlin mikechamberlin3@gmail.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:** Sue Kressly, skressly@kresslypediatrics.com
**Humana:** Gail Schonfeld, gschonfeld@eastendpediatricspc.com
**United Healthcare:** chipharb@comcast.net
All others AND Medicaid, for now....please process through the Hassle Factor Form
Thanks for your support!
Sue Kressly
skressly@kresslypediatrics.com

Kressly Pediatrics

1432 Easton Rd, Suite 4E

Warrington, PA 18976

[www.kresslypediatrics.com](http://www.kresslypediatrics.com)