

of the recommendations for the use of the live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) to include children 2 to 4 years of age.

Carrier letters can be accessed on the AAP Member Center, private payer advocacy page and are attached below. AAP Chapters and Members are encouraged to share these letters with local and regional health plans.

2. AAP Position Paper on Vaccine Counseling

The AAP Committee on Coding and Nomenclature (COCN) developed a **position paper on Vaccine Counseling**. The document provides the rationale on the importance of separately reporting immunization administration codes and can be used to counter payer's misconceptions on the use of these codes. The paper is attached below and is also posted on the AAP Member Center, under Coding and RBRVS resources at:

<http://www.aap.org/moc/reimburse/codingrbrvsresources.htm> (requires member log in). For any coding questions, please contact the AAP CodingHotline at: aapcodinghotline@aap.org

3. AAP Issues Principles on Quality Measures

The February 2008 Pediatrics includes the statement Principles on Quality Measures as a guide for pediatricians and pediatric leadership on the use of quality measures and the criteria on which they should be based. The statement also summarizes national efforts on quality measurement and reaffirm support for principles on pay for performance programs. The statement may be accessed at

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;121/2/411>

In addition, a recent AAP News article on the statement can be accessed at:

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/29/2/16>

4. Montana Chapter Moves forward on Promoting the Value of Pediatrics

As part of the Promoting the Value of Pediatrics campaign, the AAP Montana Chapter worked with a family on an article for the Great Falls Tribune on the importance of a pediatric medical home over retail based clinics. The testimonial by the family supports the medical home concept and continuity of care provided by the pediatrician.

The Promoting the Value of Pediatrics campaign is designed to increase payer awareness and valuation of pediatric care. Resources for AAP members and chapters are available to help them implement the campaign at the local level. Included are sample articles for local media publication, template letters for Op-Ed pieces and letters to the editor, and speaking points and sound bites to use for media interviews.

These materials and additional information, can be accessed at the [Promoting Pediatrics Web Site](#) within the AAP Member Center, private payer advocacy page (requires member login).

5. UHC Renews its Contract with Epocrates

As part of the AAP private payer advocacy, UHC was encouraged to continue having its drug formularies posted through Epocrates for physician hand held devices. Initially, Epocrates had reported that its contract with UHC would not be extended however, after contacts were made to UHC, including by Anne Francis, MD, FAAP and chairperson of PPAAC, UHC has now reversed their decision. In a statement released by UHC, it was announced that UHC decided to extend its agreement with Epocrates to host prescription drug lists on physicians' handheld devices. Consequently, physicians and businesses should have no interruption in their PDL hosting service from Epocrates.

6. Chapters Encouraged to Post the Hassle Factor Form on the chapter website

The American Academy of Pediatrics has developed the Hassle Factor Form as a managed-care monitoring tool that can be used to document managed-care problems as they occur. The Hassle Factor Form is available on the AAP Member Center. To facilitate access by members, chapters can also post a link to the Hassle Factor Form on the chapter website. Some AAP chapters, including Illinois, New Jersey, and Ohio reference the form on the chapter website. As more members report payer issues, the AAP, chapters and chapter pediatric councils will have data to identify and prioritize issues with carriers. To access the Hassle Factor Form, go to the Member's Channel and go to either the Practice Management Online (PMO) or Private Payer Advocacy links.

Have a carrier concern? Complete the AAP Hassle Factor Form on the AAP Member Center at <http://www.aap.org/moc/reimburse/hasslefactor/> (requires member log in). The AAP and chapters use the data to identify issues and discussion points with payers.

For additional information on AAP private payer advocacy, contact Lou Terranova, Senior Health Policy Analyst at lterranova@aap.org or 800/433-9016 ext 7633

