

AAP Private Payer Advocacy Update

February 2010

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New National Correct Coding Initiative Edits Released

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/31/2/29>

1. WellPoint Physician Advisory Committee Update: carrier to implement enhanced payment for combination vaccines

Pediatricians are represented on the WellPoint Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) by Richard Tuck, MD, FAAP and Jeffrey Linzer, MD, FAAP. The WellPoint PAC met recently and among the discussions as reported by Dr. Tuck:

- Wellpoint plans to implement an increased payment for 90698 (Pentacel) and 90723 (Pediarix); also, they will be considering an increased payment for Kinrix. This should be implemented 7/1/2010.
- Gardisil - FDA approval for males Wellpoint has made the appropriate system changes to allow Gardisil for males based on the FDA approval.
- Wellpoint will be paying for the 99050 and 99051 after hours codes. The code for emergent office visits (99058) will not be paid by the carrier. WellPoint will continue to evaluate the issues and explore the possibility of paying for the code if it is restricted to a limited number of ICD emergent diagnoses.

2. Aetna announces new market fee schedule in the Northeast

Aetna is notifying its network providers in the Northeast of a new market fee schedule effective May 1, 2010. **The Aetna letter** (<http://www.aapca3.org/law/ppa/aetna0210.pdf>) sent to physicians in New Jersey. Although the letter references the changes in New Jersey, any Aetna network physicians is able to access their current Aetna fee schedule by accessing <http://www.aetna.com> and logging to its secure provider website at NaviNet[®]. After logging in on NaviNet[®], select "Claims", then select "Fee Schedule".

The Private Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee will continue to monitor the impact of the Aetna fee schedule change to pediatricians. AAP members are encouraged to report any adverse changes in their fee schedule by carriers using the AAP Hassle Factor Form on the AAP Member Center home page at: <http://www.aap.org/moc> under the Practice Management Online section.

3. Carriers collaborate in Ohio and New Jersey on administrative simplification for physicians

Health plans are collaborating on a shared provider portal pilot in Ohio and New Jersey. The pilot will assess how health plans can best provide physician access to multiple insurers to confirm member eligibility, billing and referrals. The initiative is jointly sponsored by the America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA). The Ohio and New Jersey AAP Chapters have initiated discussions with AHIP regarding the unique pilot program.

Both pilots in Ohio and New Jersey have the potential to simplify work associated with patient visits and achieve savings, including providing physicians with real-time information that:

- Allows office staff to quickly determine key eligibility and benefit information (e.g., co-pays, co-insurance, and deductibles and differences in coverage for services provided in- versus out-of-network), minimizing time and expense needed for such purposes;
- Gives physicians access to current and accurate information on the status of claims submitted by physician offices for payment by insurers.
- Tests real-time referrals and timely pre-authorization of services
- On-line claims submissions

Participating carriers include:

Aetna
Anthem
CIGNA
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield
Humana
Kaiser Permanente
Medical Mutual of Ohio
UnitedHealthcare
WellCare

Two different vendors were selected to create the multi-payer solution:

NaviNet for the New Jersey pilot and Availity® for the Ohio pilot

The initiative is being funded by the participating health insurance plans. The website will be available to physicians and hospitals at no cost. Additional information will be made available as the pilot implementation moves forward.

4. Practice Management Online (PMO) resources on immunization payments

There are several resources that can assist pediatricians with receiving proper payment for vaccine coverage available on the AAP Practice Management Online (PMO).

- AAP efforts to enhance vaccine payment must comply with law (<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/26/9/40?ikey=Ofb9w3pf9a5wE&keytype=ref&siteid=aapjournals>)
- Vaccines: How to Keep Your Patients Well and Your Practice Financially Healthy (<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2692>)
- Playing the Game: Pediatricians need to understand economic game theory to be paid fairly for vaccine administration (<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=1857>)
- The Business Case for Pricing Vaccines and Immunization Administration (<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=1808>)
- Vaccine Cost Calculators (<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2676>)
- Pedialink Module Contract Negotiation With Payers (<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=1924>)

- Vaccine Addendum to Payer Contracts (<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=1306>)

Additionally, there are a variety of template letters to patients and carriers regarding coverage at <http://practice.aap.org/templateletters.aspx#carriers>. Official AAP Letters on PMO <http://practice.aap.org/aapletters.aspx>. These are letters from AAP leadership to various payers advocating for appropriate coverage and payment.

Also, AAP members and staff can access the Immunization Best Business Practices online module, which is available for free by registering at <http://www.aap.org/immunization/bbpreform.cfm>.

5. AAP News articles related to private payer advocacy issues

The following articles related to private payment issues are in the February 2010 AAP News:

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The NCCI Edits are developed for use by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in adjudicating Medicare claims, but they also are utilized by many private payers and Medicaid agencies. Furthermore, the NCCI Edits frequently form the basis for proprietary claims software.

A **FREE PREVIEW** is now available of the PediaLink module on Contract Negotiations with Payers. The preview may be accessed on the AAP Member Center, private payer advocacy page under What's New (or link to http://pedialink.org/cmefinder/videos/Contract_Negotiations_Preview/index.htm (requires member login)).

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

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