

AAP Private Payer Advocacy Update

March 2010

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Changes to TRICARE subcontractors stalled: <http://aapnews.aapublications.org/cgi/content/full/31/3/36>

1. AAP advocates for timely coverage and appropriate payment of PCV 13

The AAP sent letters to the national private carriers urging appropriate coverage for the 13 valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (aka PCV 13). Payer claims systems must recognize the new CPT code for PCV 13 (90670) and are urged to establish payments to account for the cost of the PCV13. The letter is attached (http://www.aapca3.org/law/ppa/PCV13_letter.pdf) and will be posted to the AAP Member Center for chapters and members to share with local and regional payers.

2. WellPoint/Anthem correcting claim denials for immunization administration

Below is the information provided by WellPoint as they are addressing this programming error related to the immunization administration codes (90465-90466, 90471-90472) which resulted in these codes being denied. WellPoint is aware of this and is working to resolve the programming error. It is not necessary to resubmit nor appeal the denied claims at this time, WellPoint is readjudicating the denied claims. Below is the response from WellPoint:

The related health plans of Anthem Blue Cross, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Empire BlueCross BlueShield experienced a claims production issue in early March following the implementation of a system update. This impacted certain vaccination claims. Claims processed as of 3/1/2010 denied payment for the following immunization administration codes: 90465, 90466, 90471 and 90472. This affects most claims received from the following states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, and New York. A system correction was put in place the evening of 3/8/2010. We are in the process of identifying the denied claims and readjudicating them so that they are paid correctly. If you received a denial and have not received a correction by the end of March, please contact your local provider service area for assistance.

Beth Wright, Manager, Reimbursement Policies and Procedures Department (CT/ME/NH/CO)

3. TriWest offers training seminar on TRICARE

TriWest is offering TRICARE provider education seminars throughout the 21-state TRICARE West Region. The seminars, which begin April 1, 2010 and run through June, are offered annually and furnish physicians and practice staff with the latest information on TRICARE programs, policies and procedures. There is no charge for the seminar and a webinar option is available for those unable to attend in person. For additional information access:

<http://www.triwest.com/provider/frames.aspx?page=http://www.triwest.com/unauth/apps/ProviderSeminars/default.aspx>

TriWest is the TRICARE contracted managed care plan for enrollees in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and a portion of western Texas that includes El Paso and the Ft. Bliss area.

4. Pediatric Council Networking at 2010 ALF

Prior to the 2010 ALF, chapter leadership and pediatric council members were invited to participate in a networking luncheon to discuss private payer advocacy and pediatric councils. Twenty-nine members representing 18 chapters participated in the luncheon. Presently, 44 AAP Chapters have a pediatric council.

Ideas to enhance communication on private payer advocacy issues and strategies to and among pediatric councils were discussed including

- Encouraging chapter pediatric councils to share minutes to post to the pediatric council page on the AAP Member Center.
- Share a summary of topics addressed by chapter pediatric councils on a regular basis (i.e., quarterly or semi-annually) in addition to the monthly PPA updates
- Encourage inclusion of pediatric subspecialists as members of the pediatric councils. Currently a few pediatric councils include pediatric sub-specialists as members and several pediatric councils will have a sub-specialist participate on an as-needed basis depending on the issue.

5. Practice Management Online (PMO) Resources

[Practice Management Consultant](#) is an extensive collection of pediatric-specific practice management resources to assist pediatricians with managing a practice.

(https://www.nfaap.org/netFORUM/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=aapbks_productdetail&key=1ec9880e-dfc6-4d8d-98e3-727d644e3fd9) Content from the handbook includes information about the basics of pediatric practice, payment and finance, office operations, quality improvement and patient safety, and patient management. This handbook addresses competition from retail-based clinics, working with families who refuse vaccines, incorporating the medical home model into practice and more. Additionally, sample job descriptions, template letters and other information needed to efficiently manage staff and more is included.

Order by May 31, 2010 and receive a \$15 discount.

Brochures are attached on Practice Management Consultant

(http://www.aapca3.org/law/ppa/PM_brochure.pdf) and other PMO resources

(http://www.aapca3.org/law/ppa/practice_management.pdf). Please contact Trisha Calabrese at tcabrese@aap.org or call 800/433-9016, ext 7124 for more information.

6. AAP News articles related to private payer advocacy issues

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

Changes to TRICARE subcontractors stalled - <http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/31/3/36>

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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