

## **AAP Private Payer Advocacy Update April 2006**

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### **1. Vaccine Addendum to Payer Contracts Now Available on-line**

The AAP Private Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee (PPAAC) drafted a Vaccine Addendum to Payer Contracts as a guide for pediatricians in negotiating with carriers on vaccine payments. Suggested language is provided to clarify carrier coverage and payment for new vaccines. The suggested language is intended for information purposes only and is not intended as legal advice or as a requirement by AAP. The addendum can be accessed on the private payer advocacy page on the AAP Member Center at <http://www.aap.org/moc/reimburse/VaccineAddendumtoPayerContracts.pdf>. A copy of the **Vaccine Addendum to Payer Contracts** is attached.

The AAP Private Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee (PPAAC) is coordinating vaccine payment strategies with the AAP Task Force on Immunization and additional strategies will be reported in future PPA updates.

### **2. Aetna paying for two E/M codes using Modifier-25 and physicians can resubmit denied claims**

Effective February 11, 2006 Aetna is providing separate payment for a preventive Evaluation and Management (E/M) code and a second E/M code billed on the same day using Modifier - 25. Additionally, previously denied claims eligible for an appeal with a date of service up to 180 days from 2/11/06 may be resubmitted. To be reconsidered, the original claim must have been submitted within 90 days of the service date.

### **3. Participating providers can access Aetna code combinations**

To identify which CPT codes Aetna will pay separately, Aetna contracted pediatricians can access the on-line Aetna Clear Claim Connection on the carrier's website. The secure site includes all the CPT codes that Aetna pays as well as its coding edits. When reviewing Aetna contracts and payments, pediatricians can access this site to determine what the carrier's payments will be.

### **4. Pediatric practice in KY successful in enhancing immunization administration payments.**

Using the AAP developed letter, a pediatrician in Kentucky reported that in Fall 2005, Anthem BCBS of Kentucky was not paying adequately on CPT codes 90465 and 90466. After sharing the attached **AAP letter on pediatric immunization administration codes** with the regional carrier, he reports that he is now paid "2 1/2 to 3 times the previous amount".

#### **5. Colorado Senate passes uniform health plan contract bill**

Colorado State Senate Bill 198 was passed calling for uniformity in health plan contracts with physicians as reported in the Denver Business Journal at <http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2006/04/10/daily34.html>. The AAP Colorado Chapter has been active in supporting this measure. According to the article, one of the bill's supporters is Colorado State Senator Kiki Traylor who is also a pediatrician. The Colorado House must now review the bill.

#### **6. AAP News article on retail based clinics**

To assist pediatricians in dealing with clinics based in retail stores such a Wal-Mart, Target, etc., the April Issue of AAP News identifies the implications and strategies to deal with this new market development. The article can be accessed on-line at <http://aapnews.aapublications.org/cgi/content/short/27/4/1-a>

#### **7. Access to Private Payer Advocacy page is enhanced**

The PPA logo (below) is now a link on the AAP Member Center home page. To facilitate access, AAP members can now click the logo on the Member Center home page for ready access the private payer advocacy page.

*For information on AAP Private Payer Advocacy, including pediatric councils, contact Lou Terranova, Senior Health Policy Analyst at [lterranova@aap.org](mailto:lterranova@aap.org) or 800/433-9016 ext 7633.*