

4. Minnesota mandates all electronic claims by 2009

As reported in the Star Tribune (<http://www.startribune.com/535/story/1272752.html>), Minnesota became the first state in the nation to require all health care providers and insurers to file claims electronically, beginning January 1, 2009. The new law impacts all medical related claims to public and private payers. A workgroup consisting of providers, payers and state agencies is developing the standardized format for electronic claims. The state believes this will create efficiencies and lower costs since it was reported that electronic claims cost \$.85 cents to process as opposed to \$1.85 for paper claims.

5. AMA issues updated report on Competition in Health Insurance

The AMA has released its report *Competition in Health Insurance: A Comprehensive Study of US Markets* which provides a comprehensive look at health insurance market concentration for 313 metropolitan areas in 46 states. In several metropolitan areas, one or two health insurers appear to dominate the market in terms of plan enrollees. This information may be useful to medical societies, AAP chapters and pediatric councils in assessing carrier mergers and acquisitions, as well as advocating for antitrust relief within their state. The report can be accessed on the AMA website or by clicking on the link [Competition in Health Insurance: A Comprehensive Study of US Markets](#)

6. Tools to evaluate your carrier contract

Several resources have been developed to assist pediatricians in enhancing carrier contracts. The following are available on the AAP Member Center, private payer advocacy page as well as the practice management online (PMO) link:

- *Questions Pediatricians Should Ask Before Signing a Managed Care Contract*
- *Checklist to Assess Managed Care Contracts*
- *Vaccine Contract addendum*
- *Managed Care Contract Issues*

In addition, the Pedialink module on *Contract Negotiation with Payers* is now available at: http://www.pedialink.org/cme/_coursefinder/CMEdetail.cfm?aid=31177&area=liveCME.

7. AAP News articles related to private payer issues

The July 2007 issue of AAP News features the following articles related to private payer issues: (to read the article, click on the link below the title)

Settlement of class-action suit reached with 22 BCBS plans

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/28/7/34>

AAP works to shift vaccine financing burden from pediatricians

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/28/7/11>

It may be time to familiarize yourself with National Drug Codes (from AAP News Coding Corner)

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/28/7/22>

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.

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.