

- Pediatric Council Forum: If your chapter has or is considering developing a pediatric council, this forum will bring together chapters to discuss current private payer issues and strategies for pediatric councils. Saturday, 10/7, 4:00pm - 5:30pm at the Georgia World Congress Convention Center, Room A301
- SOAPM Hot Topics Carrier Panel Discussion: Medical Directors from 3 national carriers will be available to answer questions as part of the SOAPM Hot Topic session on Saturday, 10/7, 2:30-4:00pm at the Georgia World Congress Convention Center
- HSAs, HRAs, CDHPS-The New Alphabet Soup of Health Insurance and What It Means for You, Sunday, 10/8, 1:30-3:30 pm Georgia World Congress Convention Center, Room B406
- How do you price vaccines? The business perspective; Monday, 10/9, 6:45 -7:45 am - 8am, Georgia World Congress Convention Center, Room A403
- Retail Clinics - Death of the Medical Home? Monday, 10/9, 8:20-8:40am, Georgia World Congress Convention Center, Ballroom

4. Resources to guide pediatric practices on managed care contracting and carrier retrospective audits and repayment

New postings on the Member Center, private payer advocacy page include:

- Questions Pediatricians Should Ask Before Signing a Managed Care Contract: This brochure poses questions pediatricians need to consider when reviewing a managed care contract. These questions identify areas in the contract to address during negotiations with the carrier.
- Checklist to Assess Carrier Contracts: To assist pediatrician's review of carrier contracts, the checklist identifies issues and contract provisions to consider. This checklist can also identify items to renegotiate at future contract renewals.
- Retrospective Audits and Take Back Demands: Provides guidance on addressing payer audits and repayment demands. The materials include a sample template letter and a state statutory analysis on retrospective audits by carriers.

To access these resources, go to the AAP Member Center at <http://www.aap.org/moc/> and link to the private payer advocacy page and scroll down to What's New.

5. Settlement Compliance Dispute Facilitator contact information

The following individuals represent the physician plaintiffs regarding carrier compliance with the settlements. These attorneys are to be contacted should a physician believes the carrier is not in compliance with the settlement. Additional information on the compliance dispute process can be accessed at <http://www.hmosettlements.com/> and click on Compliance.

Aetna and CIGNA
 Deborah Winegard
 General Counsel Medical Association of Georgia
 Email: dwinegard@mag.org
 Phone: (404) 876-7535

HealthNet and Humana
Cameron Staples
Counsel to Connecticut State Medical Society
Email: ccs@npmlaw.com
Phone: (203) 821-2000

6. Texas Pediatric Society pediatric council successful in advocating for unbundling developmental screening by BCBSTX

After a pediatric council presentation on developmental screening and follow up contacts by both the Texas Pediatric Society and Texas Medical Association to advocate for separate payment, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) announced that by November 2006 it will pay separately for developmental screening (CPT code 96110) and the evaluation and management (E/M) service code. BCBSTX has bundled the developmental screening claiming it was incidental to the primary service.

7. AAP News article on Aetna and UHC to recognize and pay on evaluation and management (E/M) services appended with Modifier 25

The August AAP News features an article Carriers to pay for claims appended with modifier 25 which can be accessed at

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/27/9/49>

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

Louis A. Terranova, MHA
Senior Health Policy Analyst
Private Payer Advocacy
Division of Health Care Finance and Quality Improvement
American Academy of Pediatrics
141 Northwest Point Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
800/433-9016 ext. 7633
847/434-7633
Fax: 847/228/9651
E-mail: lterranova@aap.org