

As follow-up to a meeting with the AAP, Humana has announced that it will revise its pediatric immunization payments, as well as pay for telephone care.

Vaccine payments: As of October 1, 2008, Humana will increase payment for pediatric immunizations that will be based on a percent of the current average sales price (ASP). Humana will also reimburse vaccines that are not based on ASP to a percent of average wholesale price (AWP). Details regarding reimbursement on the Humana National Drug and Biologicals Fee Schedule can be viewed by participating providers via the secure area of <http://www.Humana.com> In addition, for pediatric combination vaccines containing four or more vaccine components; Humana will pay the immunization rate plus an additional \$11 to the allowable fee. This would not apply to those combination vaccines with fewer than four vaccine components (e.g., MMR and DTaP).

This reimbursement methodology applies only to providers that have either received written notification or signed an addendum indicating transition to the Humana National Drug and Biologicals Fee Schedule. For more information regarding the transition to the national drug schedule, please contact the Humana contracting representative in your market.

Telephone care: Humana has established processing rules for the new telephone CPT codes 99441-99443. These codes will be processed as covered services; however, the plan member will be responsible for standard office co-payments or other cost-share amounts applicable to any other office visit. Medicare does not cover those telephone consultation codes nor does the Department of Defense (TRICARE) so neither Humana Military Healthcare Services (HMHS) nor Humana Medicare will cover the telephone care codes. Only Humana commercial health plans will provide payment for telephone care. Payment for the telephone consultation codes will be based upon the current RBRVS system.

For information on coding and billing for telephone care, see the AAP Payment for Telephone Care Toolkit, available on the Practice Management Online (PMO) at: <http://practice.aap.org/telecarepmt.aspx>

AAP private payer advocacy will continue to work with Humana and share additional details of these payment enhancements.

3. AAP immunization initiatives

In a message posted by Dave Tayloe, MD, FAAP, AAP President-Elect, , "The Academy leadership is working diligently with other immunization advocacy groups, public health agencies, and communication specialists to promote the value and safety of immunizations to the general public. While these national efforts are developing and strengthening, pediatricians continue to educate patients' families about the need to immunize. A back-and-front one-page resource is now available from the AAP to help pediatricians with parents who have questions." Several resources are available for pediatricians including the **Safety Handout for Parents** (<http://www.aapca3.org/law/ppa/letter0908.pdf>). These tools can be accessed on the CISP site at Parental Refusal Resources page at

(http://www.cispimmunize.org/pro/pro_main.html?http&&www.cispimmunize.org/pro/ParentalRefusaltoVaccinate.html)

The AAP has also developed materials for pediatricians in communicating about the value of pediatric care. Several tools are available to craft letters in response to articles about vaccine payments or retail-based clinics; prepare for media interviews; dialogue with private payers; and communicate with parents of patients. These resources are available on the AAP Member Center, private payer advocacy page under the link: [Promoting the Value of Pediatrics](#).

4. AAP notifies national payers on assistive technology

Letters were sent to national carriers, benefit plan consultants and business groups on health informing them of the AAP clinical report *Prescribing Assistive-Technology Systems: Focus on Children with Impaired Communication*. The letter also advocates for benefits coverage for the pediatrician's role in prescribing assistive technology, including care coordination, planning and evaluation. The letter (http://www.aapca3.org/law/ppa/safety_handout.pdf) is attached and may also be accessed on the AAP Member Center, private payer advocacy page under the link letters to carriers. The clinical report on prescribing assistive technology can be accessed at:

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;121/6/1271>

5. UHC portal on Health Savings Account balances

In response to concerns raised about billing at the point of service for those with high deductible plans, UHC has created a way for physicians to view patients' Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) balances on <http://ww.UnitedHealthcareOnline.com> (access the Patient Eligibility link, requires member log-in).

HRA funds are generally used to pay for services before the member has to pay out of pocket. This new functionality makes it easier for physicians to determine who will pay for services at the time of the visit. Actual balances may differ from what is displayed if there are outstanding claims or adjustments that have not yet been processed. At this time only HRA balances are available on-line, account balances for those with flexible spending account (FSA) or Health Savings Accounts (HSA) are not yet available with the on-line program.

6. Pediatric Council Forum at NCE

AAP members interested in private payer advocacy or forming a pediatric council as well as pediatric council members are encouraged to attend the pediatric council forum at the upcoming NCE. The forum will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 4-5 pm at the Hynes Convention Center, Room 107. Updates on forming a pediatric council and issues addressed by the AAP and chapters will be highlighted.

7. AAP News articles on private payer advocacy issues in AAP News

The following links are articles in the September 2008 AAP News related to private payer advocacy:

CIGNA clarifies coding for limited developmental testing

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/29/9/19>

Progress report: Vaccine financing experts outline accomplishments of AAP-AMA Immunization Congress

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/29/9/8>

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.

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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