

3. AAP notifies national carriers of Principles for Retail Based Clinics (RBC)

Resources on dealing with RBCs posted on Member Center

National Carriers were notified of the AAP's position on the attached **Retail Based Clinics** and a copy of the letter is posted on the Member Center, private payer advocacy page. Resources for chapters and members on responding to RBCs are available on the SOAPM page on the Member Center at: www.ap.org/moc/. It can also be accessed via the private payer advocacy and scroll down to Retail Based Clinics.

4. Payment Tip: Make sure carriers are using updated rates for CPT code 90680 (Rotateq)

The CPT code for the new vaccine (Rotateq) is 90680. As you may recall, a few years ago there was a previous vaccine called Rotashield that had the same CPT code and was pulled off of the market and is no longer manufactured. Although they share a CPT code, the cost of Rotateq is much greater than the discontinued Rotashield. In some markets, carriers have not updated their fee schedules and are basing payments for Rotateq on the old Rotashield fee thereby causing pediatricians not to be fully paid for Rotateq. Notify your carrier immediately if this is happening to you. The current AWP for Rotateq (based on Thomson's Red Book) is \$88.70.

5. Productive Information Exchange at Both the Carrier Panel Meeting and Pediatric Council Forum at NCE

At the 2006 NCE, the SOAPM Hot Topics session featured a Q&A with a panel of carrier medical directors. Andrea Gelzer, MD of CIGNA and Daniel Salinas, MD of Wellpoint (Georgia) addressed questions on carrier policies and practices, particularly vaccine payments and bundling. Both medical directors promised to follow up on reviewing vaccine payments, separate payment for screenings (developmental, hearing and vision) and preventive care benefits under high deductible plans with health savings accounts and an update will be provided in a future PPA Update.

Twenty-two AAP chapters were represented at the Pediatric Council Forum held during the 2006 NCE. A panel of pediatric council chairpersons shared their experiences in starting a pediatric council and keeping members and medical directors engaged in discussing issues. During the open discussion, suggestions were made to enhance AAP and chapter pediatric council coordination including sharing and posting pediatric council minutes on the member center and holding regular conference calls. These ideas will be reviewed at the upcoming PPAAC meeting the end of October.

6. AAP News article on Private Carrier Audits and Take Backs

The October 2006 issue of AAP News features an article on carrier retroactive audits and repayment (take back) demands and provides guidance to pediatricians on responding to repayment demands. The article can be accessed at:

<http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/content/short/27/10/1-b>

In addition, resources to AAP members on carrier audits and take backs can be accessed on the AAP Member Center, link to private payer advocacy and scroll down to Retrospective Audits and Take Backs.

For additional information on AAP private sector advocacy, contact Lou Terranova, Senior Health Policy Analyst at lterranova@aap.org or 800/433-9016 ext 7633.