Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are this week’s important updates and news for you.

1. Telehealth and Wellness Reimbursement

The Chapter has learned that the claim system used by Wellcare is not configured to pay at parity for telehealth services. All claims will be adjusted by the plan to reflect parity e.g. corrected amount until their system is reconfigured. Welcome indicates that this will take at least two months.

2. Telehealth: Private Payor Info

This COVID-19 Telehealth Payor Coding Grid was developed and provided to you by The Children’s Care Network* based on information gathered from payor entities and will be updated as new information becomes available. The information provided does not and is not intended to constitute professional, billing or legal advice and is made available for general information purposes only.

3. Census Update (April 10, 2020)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the self-reporting deadline for the 2020 census has been extended to mid-July. Please continue your efforts encouraging families in your practice to complete the census online or via the phone.

In the last census, children under 4 years old had the highest rate of being undercounted, with over 10% omitted, reflecting 2.2 million children and toddlers nationwide. Children most likely to be missed included those from single-parent families, children whose families live in poverty, those from immigrant families, and children from homes where a language other than English is spoken.

Over $900 Million in Federal dollars is distributed annually based on the census (see this site for 2016 findings: https://www.naanponsors.org/funding/federal-funding-census/). This supports programs like Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start and WIC. As a country recovers from the economic devastation of the pandemic, more and more children will need these programs to ensure their health and welfare.

Thank you for all you do to make sure that kids are counted.

4. Chapter EPIC Programs Now Delivered Virtually

The Chapter’s popular EPIC programs, which provide in-office training sessions on Breastfeeding and Immunization topics, are going virtual. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, we understand practices are limiting foot traffic in and out of their offices in order to prioritize the health of their patients. We are innovating to bring our peer-to-peer education to you in a new way—online! We can customize a program to your office staff availability (they can even log on or call in from home) or you can register for one of our new webinar offerings. Please visit the EPIC website at http://www.gaepic.org/ for more information.

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5. COVID-19 Testing

The Georgia Department of Public Health is pleased to announce that testing capabilities have been greatly expanded at the Public Health Lab (please click here for more information). The Georgia Department of Public Health is pleased to announce that testing capabilities have been greatly expanded at the Public Health Lab (please click here for more information).

6. Strengthening Families Georgia Offers Parenting During COVID-19 Resources

GA Division of Family and Children Services - Prevention and Community Support and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia - Parenting During COVID-19: Successful Parenting During the Coronavirus Pandemic

7. Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP)

We have learned from some of our members that they have received a Paycheck Protection Plan loan. As a reminder information on this loan is outlined in this article from the Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/03/30/heres-how-get-small-business-loan-under-100-million-corporate-tax-id/ (please click here for more information). Thank you for all you’re doing in this challenging time—for your patients, your families, your staff and, of course, yourselves. We hope! Contact us with your questions via Noreen Dahill at ndahill@gaaap.org.

Thanks for all you do to make sure that kids are counted.

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