



Blast Communication:

Sent to our Members via Email and Fax

COVID-19 Update #8

April 14, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

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

Note: If you are reading this message as a blastfax, visit us on the web at www.gaaap.org to view the message online to access the links.

1. Telehealth and Wellcare 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. Wellcare 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-August. Please continue your efforts encouraging families in your practice to complete the census on-line 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 infants 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 funding: <https://www.naacp.org/census-federal-programs-funded-census-count/>). This supports programs like Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start and WIC. As the country recovers from the economic devastation of the pandemic, more and more children will need these programs to ensure their health and welfare.

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

*Robert Wiskind, MD, FAAP
 Chapter Census 2020 Champion*

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/> to request a program or register for an upcoming webinar. As always, this education is at no cost to your practice through our partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health and includes a Resource Kit and continuing education for physicians and nurses.

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).

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-349-billion-coronavirus-aid-bill/>

Thank you for all you're doing in this challenging time—for your patients, your families, your staff and colleagues.....and yourself, we hope! Contact us with your questions via Noreen Dahill at the Chapter office: ndahill@gaaap.org.

*Terri McFadden, MD, FAAP
 President*

*An Atlanta CIN, The Children's Care Network (TCCN) has agreed to share this information with us so we can share with you. We thank them for their cooperation. TCCN is a physician-led, clinically integrated network devoted to improving and strengthening pediatrics in metro Atlanta, Georgia. Through collaboration between community pediatricians and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, The Children's Care Network is committed to producing better outcomes for children through a robust, data-driven quality program and to supporting the pediatric community as it meets the challenges of a changing healthcare environment. The Children's Care Network is comprised of more than 1250 physicians from more than 170 community practices and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta locations.

This message is also posted on the Georgia AAP listserv for our pediatrics nurses and practice managers.