

Blast Communication

Sent to our Members via Email and Fax

COVID-19 Update #9

April 17, 2020

NOTE: If you are reading this message as a blast fax, visit us on the web at www.gaaap.org to view the message on-line to enable links. All previous blasts are archived on the website.

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are the closing updates for this week.

AAP Releases Coding for COVID-19 and Non-Direct Care – The AAP released guidance for coding around COVID-19 and non-direct care. Click [here](#) to view this document.

Georgia Early Intervention Program, Babies Can't Wait COVID-19 Update

The Georgia Department of Public Health advises that while all face-to-face intake and direct service visits through its early intervention program, Babies Can't Wait has been suspended, the program will continue to receive and assign referrals. Additionally, Service Coordinators and providers are conducting teleintervention via the Georgia Department of Public Health approved Webex platform.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce Opens Georgia Physician Loan Repayment

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce is reopening the Georgia Physician Loan Repayment Program (GPLRP) application process for two recently opened spots. This program is jointly funded by the State of Georgia and a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Click [here](#) for eligibility criteria and further details.

AAP Encourages Access to Pediatric Care during COVID-19 - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly supports the continued provision of health care for children during the COVID-19 pandemic unless community circumstances related to the pandemic require necessary adjustments to health supervision visits or acute and chronic care visits by general pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists and pediatric surgeons. Click [here](#) for its most recent statement.

Georgia Department of Community Health GAMMIS Provider Messages

The following Provider messages were posted this week on GAMMIS concerning recoupments and additional information on telehealth. Click on each title to view the message:

[Audits, Recoupments, Pre-Payment Review, Pharmacy Lock-in and Self-Disclosure
Additional Telehealth Services - COVID-19 Updates](#)

Georgia Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) COVID-19 Update

Georgia WIC has updated their FAQs on their website with additional information pertinent to practices. Notably, USDA has approved waivers that give extensions on many services, including a waiver on physical presence. See excerpt below:

Georgia WIC was also granted a physical presence waiver to assist with completing some WIC services without the need for a participant or applicant to visit the WIC clinic. This includes the required height and weight measurements, as well as lab screenings which are waived as part of the physical presence waiver. If a WIC participant has had a recent doctor's visit, though it is not required, the medical provider can fax measurement and lab information to the WIC clinic using the patient's visit summary or other applicable medical record documentation.

WIC participants are encouraged to contact their local WIC clinic, for information on clinic locations and hours. This info is on the back of the WIC folder, or they may call 1-800-228-9173. Many online services are available as well. Please visit wic.ga.gov for information regarding COVID-19 and additional resources for your patients and for your practice.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Chapter's Nutrition Coordinator, Kylia Crane, RDN, LD at kcrane@gaaap.org or (404) 881-5093.

American Academy of Pediatrics offers Resource for Physician Wellness

It is important even for physicians to follow their ABCs – those of selfcare: **A**wareness, **B**alance and **C**onnection. Awareness of your own needs, and then acting accordingly. Balancing to ensure you have a healthy prescription of equal parts work, play, and rest. Connections help you to listen to what your heart, mind, body is telling you as well as the voices of trusted friends. The American Academy of Pediatrics webinar entitled [Resilience in Stressful Times and Connecting During Times of Trauma](#) offers two 10-minute presentations from Janet Serwint MD, FAAP and James Duffee, MD, MPH, FAAP on strategies to support physician resilience while social distancing and caring for patients with COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact Noreen Dahill at ndahill@gaaap.org or if you have questions regarding Telehealth please contact Fozia Eskew at feskew@gaaap.org. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

*Terri McFadden, MD, FAAP
President*

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