



Blast Communication

Sent to our Members via Email and Fax

Georgia AAP Update

May 15, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for Friday, May 15:

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 our website.

Announcements

Governor Issues Order Providing More Physicians with Legal Liability Protections During Pandemic

Governor Brian Kemp early this week issued an executive order that protects additional physicians and allied health care professionals in the state from legal liability for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health State of Emergency except in cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or bad faith. This is good news. The Governor's initial executive order on the subject, limited it to physicians who were hospital employees. The new order corrects that problem by extending it to all physicians, whether in private practice or hospital-employed. We and other physician groups brought this issue to MAG's attention, which triggered the first Order by the Governor. MAG then worked with the Governor's office to issue the new order. We thank them for their advocacy on this. Click [here](#) to view the new Executive Order.

Georgia WIC Goes Live on Georgia Gateway 5/23/20

This is a welcome move and will allow more participants to use the eligibility system online to enroll in WIC. We will provide with more information and details next week!

Clinical Guidance

Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Potentially Associated with COVID-19

Earlier this week, the Georgia DPH released the following guidance and alert to clinicians: "The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Requests Reports of Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Potentially Associated with COVID-19 (PMIS). Please note this is a rapidly developing situation and recommendations may change (May 13, 2020)

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is aware of reports in Europe and the United States, including Georgia, of PMIS potentially associated with COVID-19. This syndrome has features which overlap with atypical Kawasaki disease and Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS). Children present with persistent fever and have elevated inflammatory markers. Additionally, abdominal symptoms and skin lesions may be present. Myocarditis and other cardiovascular changes may be seen. Some children have developed shock and required intensive care. The symptoms occur in the absence of other viral or bacterial infections and patients may have evidence of current or previous COVID-19 infection (respiratory viral detection via PCR or positive antibody test for SARS CoV-2)." Click [here](#) for actions requested for clinicians and more resources.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing information on this matter: 1) background information on several cases of a recently reported multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) associated with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and 2) a case definition for this syndrome. CDC recommends healthcare providers report any patient who meets the case definition for local, state, and territorial health departments to enhance knowledge of risk factors, pathogenesis, clinical course, and treatment of this syndrome. Click [here](#) to view the complete Advisory

Caring for Immigrant Children during COVID-19

Immigrant children and their families have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Click [here](#) to learn more and find clinical resources, multi-lingual COVID-19 materials, and free and low-cost social services in Georgia to support your patients.

Face Coverings and Infants

Cloth face coverings and face shields can make it more difficult for babies to breathe, which could lead to suffocation or strangulation. Share the National Institute for Children's Health Quality [infographic](#) on the dangers of face coverings for babies, and learn more about the [CDC's recommendations for protecting babies and children against COVID-19](#).

Education

Webinar: "Child Abuse and COVID-19 Live Webinar: What Pediatricians Need to Know"

Stephen Messner, MD medical director, Stephanie Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at CHOA, will present on May 20, 12:00 noon, re impacts of COVID-19 and how it may be affecting patient families. He will be accompanied by other child abuse experts for a case-based discussion addressing hot topics, e.g. recognizing concerns during telemedicine visits and available community resources. Dr. Messner is also vice-chair of the Georgia AAP Committee on Child Abuse & Neglect. Click [here](#) to register.

E-Learning Module: "Training on Human Trafficking and the Healthcare Response"

A 1-hour, self-paced e-learning module, designed by CHOA, for healthcare professionals who may encounter patients affected by labor or sex trafficking/exploitation. The course offers free CME/CNE credit and provides a basic overview of adult, and child trafficking. Guidance for clinicians including definitions, risk factors, possible indicators, health consequences, and recommendations for recognizing and appropriately responding to suspected trafficking. Click [here](#) to access the module. Additional resources can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Webinar: "A Framework to Approach Racial Health Inequities during the COVID 19"

Pandemic

This AAP [webinar](#) describes the racial inequities and emerging health disparities data related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides strategies to address them.

Georgia AAP Education Calendar

The Chapter's education programming continues, now all of it is virtual. To register for webinar visit: <https://www.gaaap.org/upcoming-webinars/>. All webinars are at 12:30-1:30pm

- Webinar: EPIC Immunization 2020 Update: Coding for Childhood Immunizations, May 21
- Webinar: Adverse Childhood Experiences & Trauma in Pediatrics, May 29
- Webinar: A Look at Georgia Newborn Screening: Update on Pilots & More, June 2
- Webinar: HPV Vaccination Update: New Challenges, New Inspiration, June 3
- Webinar Series: Pediatric Infectious Disease & Immunization, June 4, 11, & 17
- Webinar: Public Health Resources in Education & Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, June 9

Practice Management & Operations

Medicaid News: Peach State—Wellcare Merger Update, Pts No Longer Able to Select Wellcare

We learned this week that as a result of the pending merger between Centene (dba Peach State in Georgia) and Wellcare, Georgia Medicaid patients will no longer be permitted to chose Wellcare as their CMO—either by changing to them, or selecting them as a new patient. A patient has 3 options: Amerigroup, CareSource or Peach State.

Although the merger is a "done deal," Wellcare and Peach State will continue to operate as separate entities until approximately the spring of 2021, when the merger is finalized. Medicaid members who are currently enrolled with WellCare may remain with WellCare until the merger takes place. At that time, the member may choose another CMO or transition to Peach State. Medicaid will notify WellCare members in advance of the final merger date. More information will be posted on GAMMIS shortly.

AAP Voices Blog: 'We're Meeting Our Families Where They Are'

Sue Kressly, MD, FAAP, Chair of AAP Section on Practice Management explains her practice has started virtual prenatal meetings in Bucks County, Pa.

"We wanted to make sure families searching for a pediatrician for their unborn child could still find us, so we have started virtual prenatal visits where we get 3 to 10 expectant parents on a virtual meeting twice monthly, have a presentation and answer their questions," she explained. "That has been incredibly well received," she said. [Read the entire AAP Voices blog.](#)

Resources for Families

Road Tests for New Teen Drivers to Be Required After All

Our Chapter Committee on Injury and Poisoning Prevention has been monitoring the recent issue that allowed those teens who had a Learners Permit for at least one year and a day were able to obtain a driver's license without having to complete a road test. This was a recent change by the Dept. of Driver Services (DDS) as an accommodation to the COVID19 pandemic disruption. The Committee was happy to hear, however, that a recent Executive Order from Governor Kemp has stated that DDS will be required to outline a process for these individuals to complete a road test no later than September 30, 2020. We would encourage you to educate parents about the increased risk of accidents in new teen drivers and to use caution in determining when their child is mature enough to obtain a license prior to having an in-person. Click [here](#) to read the new Executive Order.

Telehealth

Send Us Your Telehealth Questions

If you have telehealth questions, send them to Fozia Khan Eskew at feskef@gaaap.org. Please put Telehealth Question in the subject line.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact Noreen Dahill at ndahill@gaaap.org. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Terri McFadden, MD, FAAP

President

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