Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for this week, August 24 - 28, 2020.

Announcements

New Chapter Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Established - Last Thursday, the Executive Committee of the Georgia Chapter voted to approve the creation of a new committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This committee will be charged with the task of addressing the issues involving bias and discrimination within the chapter and all chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), including the national AAP in this area. If you would like to be considered for membership in this committee, please email Matthew Oster, MD, at moster@gaaap.org.

U. S. Department of HHS Authorizes Pharmacists to Give Vaccines - Last week, the US Dept. of Health & Human Services issued an order that will permit pharmacists to give vaccines to children ages three years through 18 years if certain conditions are met. The Georgia Chapter has signed on to this letter from the Academy and AAP chapters to HHS Secretary Azar, calling on the Secretary to rescind this action and stressing the importance of children returning to patients practices for all needed preventive care.

Provider Relief Fund Update - Breaking news today, the deadline for applying for federal financial relief through the Medicare and CHAMPVA Provider Relief fund has been extended to September 15th. Members are encouraged to visit the HHS website to apply for the Medicare CHAMPVA distribution.

An In-Office Testing for COVID-19? For questions about whether your office should be testing for COVID-19, who makes and proper PPE and cleaning procedures please refer to the currently released AAP testing guidance found here. Currently, we understand that CPT code U0002 (Severity Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS-CoV]) and CPT code 87635 (“Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2]”) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique”) are allowable per Medicaid. CPT code 87426 (infectious agent detection by immunoassay technique of SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2) is not currently being accepted by Medicaid. For questions, email 87426@medicaid.state.ga.us.

Cardiology Follow-up Recommendations for COVID-19 Positive Children - In last week’s update, we noted that the American College of Cardiology published recommendations, “Returning to Play After Coronavirus Infection: Pediatric Cardiologic Perspective”, dated 7/14/2020. The article contains a suggested algorithm for approaching pediatric patients with a history of a COVID-19 infection who want to return to sports participation and physical activity. Information is rapidly evolving on return to sport, so stay tuned for further information. To view the article click here.

Matthew Oster, MD, an Atlanta pediatric cardiologist, is presenting a webinar on this topic tomorrow, August 27. To view the webinar click here.

If you have any questions, contact Noreen Dahill at the Georgia AAP, ndahill@gaaap.org.

Thank you.

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

Georgia AAP Update

August 26, 2020

Happy National Breastfeeding Month!

August is National Breastfeeding Month! Click here for a list of ways to celebrate it developed by the Chapter Breastfeeding Committee. For more information, contact committee chair Dr. Terri Nice at terri.nice@kautry.com.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Especially now, it’s time to show your support and spread the word. 2020 is National Immunization Awareness Month as it is National Immunization Awareness Week. The Coalition for Healthcare Information and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) collaborated to produce a video to celebrate the importance of vaccines. Click here to watch.

Resources for Pediatricians

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