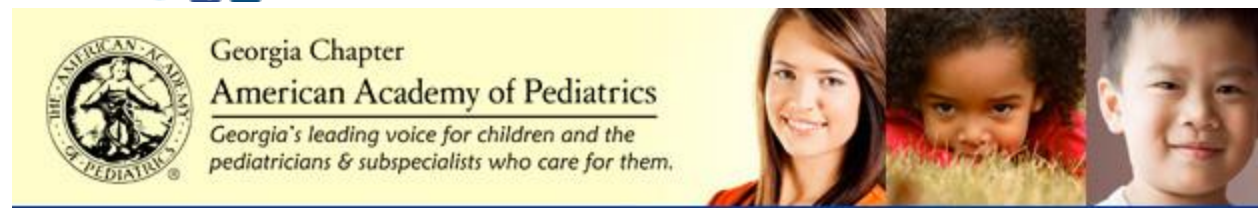


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Blast Communication

Georgia AAP Update September 2, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are your updates for this week, August 31 - September 4, 2020. We wish all of our members and their staff a Happy Labor Day Weekend!

Announcements

AAP Get Out the Vote Campaign - The AAP has launched their Vote Kids campaign with resources for November 3 which you can access [here](#). Social media graphics and voter registration resources are included as well as a QR code that can be affixed to a name badge or added as a phone background.

Alert from the Practice Management Committee: It has come to our attention that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia/Anthem is notifying practices of termination of their current contracts, for new ones to take effect on 9/1/2020 or on 11/1/2020. But the mail notices may appear to be junk email notifications, and may be in your spam email box, either for the physician or a practice administrator. We encourage each physician and practice administrator/billing contact to search their email for the following language: Sonya Hollis; OneSpan; OneSpan Sign. The new contract may include terms that affect products you take, or payment for services including midlevel providers. Please review closely and address as your practice sees appropriate.

Also, the Practice Management Committee is looking for new members. If you would like to be considered for membership, please email ndahill@gaaap.org.

Reminder Regarding RSV - As the fall season approaches, please remember to protect all eligible premature infants and other qualifying babies against RSV. Look for the Chapter's annual blast coming soon with a reminder about palivizumab's (Synagis) eligibility criteria. There are no major changes for the 2020-2021 RSV season.

Flu vaccine update: We are closely monitoring flu vaccine distribution and supply for the upcoming flu season. Private vaccines have started shipping, and we have heard reports of a few offices receiving some VFC flu vaccine (Sanofi brand VFC has not shipped yet). Offices can call their pharmaceutical vaccine representative and/or Georgia VFC (404-657-5013/5015) for an estimate of shipping dates if desired.

Opportunity to Comment on Bright Futures - The Bright Futures National Center welcomes you to provide comments related to the proposed updates to the Bright Futures/AAP Periodicity Schedule . The proposed update is to include screening all individuals ages 18 and older at least once for hepatitis C virus infection (HCV). You will be able to submit comments as an individual or on behalf of an organization. All comments must be received no later than September 21, 2020. For public comment click [here](#).

New Chapter Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Established - The Executive Committee of the Georgia Chapter recently approved 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 at both organizational and patient care levels. They will build on the important work already being done by national AAP in this area. If you would like to be considered for membership in this committee, please email kautry@gaaap.org.

In-office Testing for COVID-19: For questions about whether your office should be testing for COVID-19, whom to test, and proper PPE and cleaning procedures please refer to the recently released AAP testing guidance found [here](#).

Currently, we understand that CPT code U0002 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS-CoV]) and CPT 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 antigen detection by immunoassay technique of SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2) is not currently being accepted by Medicaid. For questions, email [fes skew@gaaap.org](mailto:feskew@gaaap.org).

Pediatrics on the Virtual Parkway: Halloween Edition! October 31st & November 1st - Plan now to "attend" our annual fall meeting on Halloween Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1, 2020. It will feature a combination of live, as well as recorded events, which you can view at your convenience. Click [here](#) for more information. Registration will open this weekend! Watch your email or visit the Chapter website to register!

Resources for Pediatricians

Provider Relief Fund Update: Deadline is Sept. 13 - The deadline for applying for federal financial relief through the Medicaid and CHIP Provider Relief Fund deadline has been extended to September 13th. Members are encouraged to visit the [HHS](#) website to apply for the Medicaid & CHIP distribution.

Resources for Parents

The Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line - is operated by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities and provides free and confidential assistance to callers needing emotional support or resource information as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emotional Support Line is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals and others who have received training in crisis counseling. **Hours of operation: 8 am - 11 pm - Call 866.399.8938.** Click [here](#) for more information.

Education

Telehealth Hack Sessions - For the past six weeks, The U.S. Department of HHS has been hosting "Telehealth Hack" sessions to speed up implementation for ambulatory providers. There are four weeks left of this ten-week series of Telehealth sessions. If interested, visit [here](#) to learn more and register for the remaining sessions.

Sincerely,

Hugo Scornik, MD, FAAP
President

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.

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