



Georgia Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
*Georgia's leading voice for children and the  
pediatricians & subspecialists who care for them.*



## Georgia AAP Weekly Update

*\*December 2, 2020\**

### Announcements

**Free Webinar to Members! "2021 Office Visit E/M Coding & Documentation Changes: What Every Pediatrician Needs to Know"** - Dec. 15 12:30-1:30 pm ET presented by nationally renowned coding expert Susan Kressly MD, FAAP, Chair, AAP Private Payer Advocacy Committee. This webinar is free for members and their staff; non-members \$55. Click [here](#) to register.

**Medicaid COVID-19/General News of Note** - Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) has now entered a value for CPT Code 87426 Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique and reports this code will pay both physicians and providers \$36.18. Previously processed claims with this code will be adjusted to reflect this payment increase. In general Medicaid news, we have some updates regarding payments and the Wellcare - Peach State Health Plan (PSHP) merger. First, all of the four GA Medicaid Care Management Organizations have begun to pay the 1% increase on the selected 109 CPT codes and are reprocessing claims back to 7/1/2020 to reflect this payment increase. Secondly, the Chapter has successfully advocated to ensure that the Georgia Medicaid CMOs pay PAs and NPs 100% of either the Medicaid maximum allowable amount or the enhanced rate for EPSDT – Health Check services. This correct payment should be reflected in new day claims and through the reprocessing of previously submitted claims. Thirdly, as the Wellcare/Peach State Health Plan remains on track to complete their May 1 merger, members are encouraged to consider reaching out to PSHP to discuss contracting options as this may impact their Wellcare patient panel. Lastly, we are happy to announce that April Hartman, MD of Augusta University has agreed to serve as our Medicaid Task Force Chair. She will lead our bi-monthly calls with DCH and the CMOs and intends to host a virtual meeting of the full Medicaid Task Force in the coming months.

**Georgia AAP Publishes "Get Out and Vote" Web Page** - As you may know, an unusual thing happened in the November election in Georgia: both US Senate seats were up for election and both will be decided by a run-off election held on Jan. 5, 2021. The Chapter has created a page with information about each candidate, important dates to remember, and information on how to vote. Click [here](#) to learn more!

**DPH Seeks COVID-19 Vaccine Providers** - On Nov. 17, all physicians were sent a letter from DPH Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey asking that physicians partner with DPH to distribute COVID-19 vaccines as they become available. In our discussions with DPH, pediatricians are encouraged to sign up now even though it is not yet clear if children will be able to receive the first wave of vaccines. There are at least two steps: filling out the expression of interest survey and later completing the Vaccine Enrollment Packet. To view the letter, please click [here](#).

**CATCH Program Call for Proposals is Open!** The (CATCH) Community Access to Child Health program is a national AAP initiative that supports pediatricians to collaborate within their communities to plan and/or implement projects that advance the health of all children. The Call for Proposals is open through Jan. 27. Pediatricians and residents with innovative ideas to plan or implement initiatives that address critical child health issues may apply for grants of \$10,000 and \$2,000, respectively. For information, pediatricians click [here](#), and for residents click [here](#). For questions, reach out to Chapter CATCH facilitators: Lillianne Lewis Debnam, MD, MPH [llewis@msm.edu](mailto:llewis@msm.edu) and Katherine Duncan, MD [drkatduncan@gmail.com](mailto:drkatduncan@gmail.com). Chapter Resident facilitators: Chelsey Webb, MD [cwebb@msm.edu](mailto:cwebb@msm.edu) and Nadine Najjar, MD, MPH [nnajjar@emory.edu](mailto:nnajjar@emory.edu). To learn more about CATCH visit [aap.org/CATCH](http://aap.org/CATCH).

### Resources for Pediatricians

**Georgia AAP Launches 2 NEW Immunization Quality Improvement (QI) Projects** - Project #1 focuses on vaccination coverage rate improvement for Georgia's American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) populations within five practices. Project #2 focuses on vaccination coverage rate improvement for Georgia's 19-35-month-old population within ten practices. Enrollment open now through Jan. 1, 2021. Space is limited! For more information and to register, click [here](#).

**Georgia Dept. of Public Health Seeks Tobacco Control Champions** - The DPH Georgia Tobacco Use Prevention Program (GTUPP) has announced its first Tobacco Control Champion Initiative. It will provide a platform for champions to share best practices on tobacco prevention, motivational interviewing strategies, tobacco use screenings and referral practices. Selected champions will receive \$6,000 to carry out this work. Apply by Jan. 8. Visit [here](#) for more information.

### Education

**EPIC® Breastfeeding Series** - Tuesday, Dec. 8, 12:30-1:30 pm ET, *Supplementation in the First Week of Life: Balancing Safety & Supply*; Faculty: Patricia Lantis, MD, Hospitalist, Marche Smith, MD, Pediatrician & Tarayn Fairlie, MD, MPH, Pediatrician. Register [here](#). For details on our monthly series, visit [www.GaEPIC.org](http://www.GaEPIC.org).

**Hugo Scornik, MD, FAAP**  
*President*

Questions? Contact Kyla Crane, RDN, LD at [kcrane@gaaap.org](mailto:kcrane@gaaap.org). This Update also posted on our pediatric nurses & practice managers listserv. Thank you!

**Stay Connected to the Georgia AAP!**

Use our media platforms -- Twitter, Facebook, YouTube -- and our blog [www.gapedb.blogspot.com](http://www.gapedb.blogspot.com) to stay in the know and get the information you need.



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