



COVID-19: Advocating for Telehealth Payment

Update #2 from the NYS AAP - Chapter 2 & 3 Pediatric Council

Dear NYS AAP - Chapter 2 Member,

Please click the links below to access 2 letter templates for your use:

- [one is addressed to insurance companies](#)
- and [one is for your local legislators](#)

Please review them, consider using them, edit them as you see fit, and send them to the appropriate people. **Our members need to speak up to make sure that the changes we are all implementing at this time will be appropriately recognized and paid.** Getting a state law requiring all insurers to handle telemedicine claims in the same manner and with the same codes and other requirements should be a priority for us going forward. These letters to legislators and insurers are a start toward this goal.

We are creating a spreadsheet listing specific coding and billing requirements by insurer for all the companies that cover children in NY State and adjacent to our borders. In addition, since many insurers are local, practices should consider constructing a spreadsheet of billing instructions for submitting telehealth claims, as many insurers have particular requirements for the claims.

PLEASE EMAIL US THE BILLING GUIDANCE YOU RECEIVE FROM INSURERS FOR TELEHEALTH AND COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES. We already have guidance from Emblem, United Health Care and Cigna.

In addition, please let us know if you are having payment issues, as we may be able to offer help.

There is a vast trove of useful information available from the National AAP. CEO Mark Del Monte shared information on many AAP initiatives in a recent email, available [here](#).

The Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee, chaired by Sue Kressly of PA, is dedicated to helping pediatricians address all manner of issues with insurance companies and other payers, including Medicaid. PAAC recently posted the following resources available through the National AAP:

- Payment Advocacy for Telehealth: https://downloads.aap.org/DOPA/Telehealth_2_rev.pdf
- State Notices about Telehealth in responses to COVID-19: <https://downloads.aap.org/DOCCSA/State-Telehealth-Notices.pdf>
- FAQs for Medicaid and CHIP responses to COVID-19: <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/downloads/covid-19-faqs.pdf>
- Coding and Billing for Non-direct care: <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID%202020.pdf>

The AAP Coding Hotline is available to answer coding questions via email at aapcodinghotline@aap.org. In addition, a recording of a webinar on Coding During the COVID-19 Pandemic is available for viewing [here](#).

Please reach out to us with questions, comments or any information that you can add to share with Chapter members to help us all get through this difficult time.

With our best wishes,

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The NYS AAP - CHAPTER 2 is YOUR Local AAP Chapter

The New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP) is comprised of three local AAP Chapters, Chapters 1, 2, and 3, who work together as a coalition.

Your Chapter, the NYS AAP - Chapter 2, has 1,600 members in 4 counties: Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk.

To learn more about Chapter 2, please view our [Member Value Flyer](#) which describes the value of Chapter membership.

CONTACT US - (We'd love to hear from you!)

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