NCCI edits impact on practices: Members may want to change coding to guarantee reimbursement

The Ohio AAP is working to advocate for Medicaid to deactivate the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits to assure that physicians are reimbursed for administration of vaccines.

On January 1, 2013 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the latest version of the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits. The NCCI edits are code edits published by both Medicaid and Medicare to support correct coding and claims adjudication. Included in the new Medicaid and Medicare edits were edits on all evaluation and management (E/M) services that disallow patient with immunization administration codes without the proper modifier. The modifier indicator for all these edits is a "1," meaning that with proper modifier placement, the edit can be overridden.

While the Academy is urgently working with National Correct Coding Solutions - the CMS contractor for NCCI edits - to have the edits suspended on all preventive medicine service codes (99381-99385 and 99391-99395) with all immunization administration codes (90460 and 90461, 90471-90474). It should be noted that the edits are currently locked in and will continue to be in effect for Medicaid, Medicare, and private payers that implement CMS coding policies until such time that AAP advocacy efforts

Continued on Page 3
Share your success stories and opinions on adolescent immunizations

Does your practice have a success story on raising adolescent vaccine rates? What do you think can be done to improve rates for adolescents in Ohio?

Share your opinions and stories on adolescent vaccines as part of a focus group during the Ohio AAP’s “Adolescent Immunizations Round Table” on Friday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 400 West Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite 110, Worthington.

This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to learn about the current rates of adolescent vaccination in Ohio, what resources are currently available for practitioners, and how you can be part of the solution to this issue.

We are also looking for a practice to share their success story relating to adolescent vaccines to be featured as a guest speaker during the meeting. If this sounds like you, or you would like to share your opinions on the issue, contact Elizabeth Dawson at edawson@ohioaap.org for more information.

The day’s agenda will include:

**Adolescent Immunization**

**Rates in Ohio: Scope of the Problem**
(including specifics on Meningococcal, Flu, HPV, and Tdap)

**Speaker:** Michael T. Brady, MD,
Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Infectious Diseases Expert

**Current Ohio Resources for Pediatricians**

**Speakers:** Michael T. Brady, MD, and Tina Bickert, ODH Adolescent Vaccines Consultant

Lunch and panel discussion:

**Adolescent Vaccines: A Cross-Community Panel**
(Panels from the Ohio Department of Health, primary care pediatrician, IMPACT SIIS staff, parent)

**Focus Group Breakout Sessions**

**Adolescent Vaccines in Our Practice: A Success Story**
(Speaker TBD)

After the meeting from 3 to 4 p.m., you are invited to stay to hear about the Ohio AAP’s priorities, initiatives and activities.

For more information on the Expert Round Table Discussion & Focus Groups on Adolescent Immunizations click here.
Apply for FREE Bike Helmets for Safety Week 2013

The Ohio AAP is excited to announce the opportunity to apply for FREE bike helmets to be distributed to children in need during Bike Helmet Safety Awareness Week 2013, May 6 – 10. More than 3,000 helmets will be awarded to organizations throughout the state. Applications can be submitted by community groups, health educators, school officials, or others who are planning any event held to raise awareness of bike helmet safety this spring (such as bike rodeos, bike to school/work days, or community awareness events).

If you are interested in receiving an application for helmets, contact Hayley Southworth at hsouthworth@ohioaap.org or (614) 846-6258. Applications are due Feb. 28, 2013.

NCCI edits continued from page 1

are successful. Over the past several days, the AAP has been in telephone contact with the highest levels of the CMS contractor responsible for the NCCI edits and has delivered a formal letter demanding retraction of these edits.

Therefore, effective immediately and for all claims submitted after January 1, 2013, AAP urges its members to append modifier 25 to the preventive medicine service code (99381-99395) when it is reported in conjunction with any immunization administration service (90460-90461; 90471-90474).

A modifier 25 should also be appended to other non-preventive medicine E/M services (eg, 99201-99215) when reported in conjunction with immunization administration -- but only when the E/M service is significant and separately identifiable.

We understand this is an administrative burden for you and your staff. The AAP is working diligently to unlock this change and will forward additional information on this issue as it becomes available.

Please contact the AAP Coding Hotline with any questions or issues aapcodinghotline@aap.org

Webinar: Learn how to bill for mental health

The Ohio AAP will be hosting a webinar, “Billing for Mental Health” on Thursday, April 25 from 12:15-1 p.m.

This webinar, hosted by John Duby, MD, chair of the Ohio AAP Building Mental Wellness (BMW) Learning Collaborative will provide Ohio AAP members the opportunity to learn more about the process of billing for mental health services in pediatric practice.

To register for the webinar, click here

Webinar: Learn how to bill for mental health

The Ohio AAP will be hosting a webinar, “Billing for Mental Health” on Thursday, April 25 from 12:15-1 p.m.

This webinar, hosted by John Duby, MD, chair of the Ohio AAP Building Mental Wellness (BMW) Learning Collaborative will provide Ohio AAP members the opportunity to learn more about the process of billing for mental health services in pediatric practice.

To register for the webinar, click here
There is still time to register for asthma collaborative

The third wave of the Chapter Quality Network Asthma Project (CQN3) has launched, but there is still time to join this collaborative.

If you are seeing more children with asthma than you once had, the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics would like to invite you to participate in phase three of the Chapter Quality Network (CQN3) Asthma project. The CQN3 project is led by the national office of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is providing Chapters with tools, resources and technical support to lead a quality improvement (QI) effort amongst 12 to 15 member practices to improve overall outcomes of children with asthma by implementing the NHLBI/NAEPP asthma guidelines.

Since the start of the asthma Quality Improvement learning collaborative in 2009, 254 Ohio clinicians have participated in this successful program.

If you are interested in joining or receiving more information about CQN3, please contact Elizabeth Dawson, Program Manager, at edawson@ohioaap.org or call (614) 846-6258.

Pediatric Pearls Conference March 28

Nationwide Children’s Hospital Education Institute and Central Ohio Pediatric Society is pleased to announce their 2013 Pediatric Pearls Conference on March 28 in Columbus. This very informative half-day conference is designed to meet the diverse educational needs of physicians and nurse practitioners providing primary care to infants, children and adolescents, and has been approved for 3.5 Category 1 CME credits.

Topics for this year include: Health Care Reform, Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives, Community Acquired Pneumonia, Vesicoureteral Reflux Management and Cholesterol Screening.

Please click here for additional information and to register or call (614) 355-0676.

Save the Date!

‘Lions, Literacy and Lunch’ Foundation fundraiser

The 7th annual fundraiser for the Ohio AAP Foundation, Lions, Literacy, and Lunch, will be held Saturday, May 18 from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Water’s Edge Boardwalk Shelter 2. Join the Ohio AAP Foundation for a day of fun at the Columbus Zoo while supporting the Foundation’s signature programs. Event admission include all-day admission to the zoo.

For more information contact Hayley Southworth at hsouthworth@ohioaap.org or call (614) 846-6258.

Role of the pediatrician in school violence a topic at Ohio AAP Annual Meeting

The Ohio AAP’s Annual Meeting Sept. 19-21 (Thursday thru Saturday) at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel on Capitol Square will feature several interesting topics including concussions, MRSA, technology in medicine, the role of the pediatrician in school violence and much more. Plan to attend. Read more...