



Delays in Vaccine IA Payment Resolved...

By Joanne Ray, DO, Chair, Pediatric Council

You've probably noticed a delay in payment for claims for well child checks at which vaccines were administered to Medicaid Managed Care (Salud) patients. The Pediatric Council is happy to report that you should be receiving payments now.

A delay in implementation of pricing for new vaccine administration codes, announced in an **In The (K)now** sent to you Dec. 31, 2010, led to a temporary delay in claims processing by the Saluds. The implementation took longer than expected and was out of your Pediatric Council's control.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011, the vaccine administration codes recognized by the major insurers changed. Codes 90465, 90466, 90467 and 90468 were deleted from the CPT nomenclature. (These codes were never in the Medicaid Fee Schedule). They have been replaced by two new codes, 90460 and 90461. These new codes include payment for counseling, which recognizes the time and effort you spend counseling families on the benefits and risks of vaccines as well as the actual expense in staff time, storage, cost of syringes, copies of VIS, etc.

Prior vaccine administration pricing is now attached to the new codes. You previously billed 90471 for the first "shot;" the code now is 90460. The second/subsequent "shots" were billed with a single 90472; now bill a single 90461. The payment per the Medicaid Fee Schedule is \$20.97 for code 90460 and \$10.82 for 90461.

Codes 90471-74, previously used for VFC vaccine administration, have not been deleted. These codes have been changed to reflect administration of vaccines to a patient 19 years and older or if no counseling is provided. Don't delete them from your billing software.

It gets more complicated!! You should bill multiple units of the 90461 codes for commercial insurers if you administer multiple vaccines. Don't submit claims for multiple units of vaccine administration for Salud patients. Please read the FAQ Fact Sheet at <http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2980> updated by the AAP last month, which explains all of the changes in detail and includes the CPT codes attached to the vaccines.

All Medicaid Managed Care patients (including those in the COLTS program) are covered under these changes. If your patients are NOT enrolled in managed care (Medicaid Fee For Service), vaccine administration is included in your payment for the well child check. These patients are primarily Native Americans. According to MAD, these providers should bill the 90460 and 90461 beginning April 1, 2011, but not until then. You should receive a communication from MAD about this change; be sure to continue to include the CPT vaccine codes, but don't bill for vaccine administration until April 1.

