

NMPS PEDIATRIC COUNCIL

The NMPS Pediatric Council meets three times a year to discuss issues that affect your ability to run your practice efficiently and get paid properly for the services you provide to your patients.

The Council held its first meeting in November, 2006. Pediatricians from different regions around the state meet with the medical directors of the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and representatives from the Department of Health, the Medicaid Assistance Division, and Envision New Mexico. Your peers said they needed help with Prior Authorizations for asthma medications, which was the Council's first project. The Council has kept asthma as its clinical focus through the years, although recently it has expanded its emphasis to dental health and reporting of obesity measures.

Your interests are represented by your colleagues: Joanne Ray, DO, Las Cruces (founder and current chair), Karen Carson MD, Roswell (immediate past chair), Brian Etheridge MD, Silver City, Melissa Mason MD, Albuquerque, Michelle Stam McLaren MD, Gallup, Albert Bourbon, PA, Albuquerque (recently moved from Las Vegas), and Ben Hoffman, MD, NMPS president.

What have we done for you lately?

- Three out of four Salud programs now pay for dental varnish application in your office
- Ensured the safety of your patients by having cough and cold medicines removed from New Mexico Medicaid formularies for children under four
- Developed and implemented a universal prior authorization form for Synagis administration in New Mexico
- Made it possible to you to dispense nebulizers from your office
- Expanded coverage for MDI's and spacers
- Worked with insurers to provide payment for developmental screening for New Mexico children
- Clarified fair payment for nutritional counseling for weight issues in our patient populations
- Worked with the New Mexico Department of Health in an important project to address asthma treatment in New Mexico
- Ensured payment for care provided during holidays, weekends, and after regular business hours

How to contact us:



“Please let us know if you have practice management issues you think the Council can help you with. We’re not allowed to discuss payment rates, but we can discuss with the MCOs why certain services you provide are NOT paid. We can help when you encounter roadblocks with the insurers. And if you find something to praise, please let us know that, too.”

Joanne Ray, DO, FAAP, Pediatric Council Chair
Email: jmrkido@casaalegropediatrics.com