

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2021

President's Message – Robert Saul, MD, FAAP

As if the COVID-19 virus itself was not enough of a challenge, the SCAAP has a seemingly never-ending struggle to advocate for children/families and our SCAAP members.

- While we celebrate some success with Judge Wilson's decision to issue a temporary restraining order/preliminary injunction to budget proviso 1.108, our governor vows to fight this. This suit was filed on behalf of a group of parents of children with disabilities but certainly now applies to all children if school districts will act. The governor has appealed this ruling, but the initial appeal was rejected.
- The SCAAP (with the help of Democracy Now and the AAP) has filed an amicus brief to fight the governor's appeal to Judge Wilson's ruling.
- In the interim, we have sent a letter to all the SC school district superintendents (link attached) asking them to act now to protect our children now and issue masking requirements while in school.
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fbc81f5b-73fd-4bd1-b47a-7abb3264eceb>
- We are thankful to the SC Children's Hospital Collaborative for publishing daily numbers of the impact of severe COVID-19 infections in children. I fear that falling numbers will be seen as a reason to let up on our mitigation measures. We should not let up until those numbers hover around ZERO. Our children deserve nothing less.
- We have divvied up the JCLCC (Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children) meetings around the state and advocated for vaccines, equity, and many other issues on your behalf in the last couple of weeks.
- Our chapter has received two grants (\$10,000 and \$25,000 [the latter was only awarded to 9 chapters]) to help promote COVID-19 mitigation efforts in our state. We are collaborating with SC Dept Ed, Institute for Child Success, SC DHEC, school nurses and others to increase vaccination rates in SC.
- SC DHEC may be calling on local clinicians to help with vaccination education opportunities and pop up clinics, especially in rural areas.
- In case you missed it, the SC DHEC school health guidelines are in this link
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact>

[=8&ved=2ahUKEwjZuKW51sjzAhWUQTABHbkYBylQFnoECAQQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fscdhec.gov%2FK12Guidance&usg=AOvVaw1V2nAIJZsTEzvz3VA4bI0B](https://www.fscdhec.gov/2FK12Guidance&usg=AOvVaw1V2nAIJZsTEzvz3VA4bI0B)) and were just updated 10/12/21.

- I just got off a call (the AAP Chapter Chat) and heard about the anticipated rollout of the COVID-19 in November 2021. I have also attached several slides from this presentation. The good news (great news actually) is that, after the review in late October, it is anticipated that an EUA for Pfizer vaccine for 5-11 year-olds is expected to occur swiftly followed by CDC approval. The “bad” news is that we can expect some hiccups along the way in terms of distribution, billing codes, actual shots in arms and shortages from a high initial demand. This will hopefully be less angst-producing than the initial distribution to adults back in late 2020-early 2021. But we should be ready to have a message that we can give to our patients/ families and media outlets. Suggestions for this messaging are welcome and can be reviewed by the Executive Committee and Board. A quick reply is appreciated and then we will be glad then to send them back out for use. <\\SCMASVR03.scmanet.org\UserFolders\debbies\Documents\Initial Rollout of Vaccinate Children.docx>

One more thing—we are looking at ways to be sure that the SC newborn screening program will provide the best care possible. There is an announcement below from DHEC but some of us feel strongly that the best care involves immediate and simultaneous notification of the PCP and metabolic specialists (not necessarily requiring a separate, sequential notification) since life-threatening diseases should be treated accordingly, avoiding potential delays.

So, the SCAAP continues to fight for and with you and welcomes your input. We value your membership.

Check us out on Facebook (SC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics) and Twitter (@SC_AAP)!

Important Message To Pediatricians Getting Critical Newborn Screening Results To Medical Specialists, If The Pediatrician States They Will Do A Referral

Per current legislation and legal interpretation, the SC DHEC Newborn Screening Program cannot make direct referrals when medical follow-up is required. So, we rely on Pediatricians to initiate referrals to specialists for their patients for time critical newborn screening disorders when needed. Of note, we do send the attached letter to many providers as a friendly reminder of their obligation and compliance with the newborn screening law. <http://sp2010/societies/SCCAAP/layouts/WordViewer.aspx?id=/societies/SCCAAP/Shared%20Documents/NBS%20Data%20Request%20Letter%20rev%2004-13-21.docx&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fsp2010%2Fsocieties%2FSCCAAP%2FShared%2520Documents%2FForms%2FAllItems%2Easpx%3FView%3D%7Bd88dc17d%2Dc595%2D4a01%2Db776%2D10686cc6a627%7D%26SortField%3DModified%26SortDir%3DDesc&DefaultItemOpen=1>

Any feedback, support, and/or comments you have on this topic are truly appreciated.

Tanya Y. Spells, MS, MT(ASCP)

Newborn Screening Follow Up Director

Newborn Screening, Metabolic Formula and First Sound Programs

Division of Children's Health & Perinatal Services

Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

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As School Openings Stir COVID-19 Outbreaks, Pediatricians Sound the Alarm

Doctors say hospitals are filling with critically ill kids because of lax prevention measures at schools. Many are calling for mask mandates and vaccinations.

<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/school-openings-stir-covid-19-outbreaks-pediatricians-sound-alarm>

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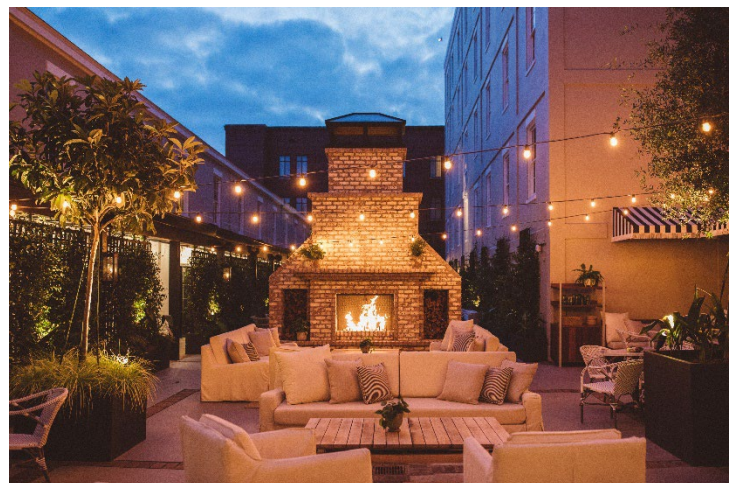
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Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

Mark Your Calendars!! 2022 SC Chapter of the AAP CATCH Meeting January 21-22 at the Hotel Emeline, Charleston, SC

The SCAAP CATCH Meeting is for South Carolina Chapter members and their staff. More details will follow this week. CME will be offered and there is no registration fee.



Targeted Outreach To Enroll Providers



We have done targeted outreach to enroll providers, but we still have many that have yet to attempt to enroll despite our recruiting efforts. Perhaps you can push a bit from your end? I don't know if there will be a prioritization plan that favors practices that are established with administering vaccines but we do need as many providers as possible to reach the peds populations.

Since so many medical home practices are now owned by hospital systems who control where vaccines go within their systems, it would be helpful if you could remind your providers to be in discussions with their own system decision-makers about where vaccines go.

We will be looking at a breakdown of percentages of location types where children receive their childhood immunizations and/or flu shots.

We will communicate the plans from the feds for allocations as soon as we can. Thank you again.

Linda Bell, MD

State Epidemiologist

Director, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

S.C. Dept. of Health & Environmental Control

Child Well Being Coalition Lunch and Learn

Please see the attached flyer with details on the upcoming Lunch and Learn scheduled for Friday, November 12 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. The attached flyer also includes the registration link.

In the interim, we have sent a letter to all the SC school district superintendents (attached) asking them to act now to protect our children now and issue masking requirements while in school.

<http://sp2010/societies/SCCAAP/layouts/WordViewer.aspx?id=/societies/SCCAAP/Shared%20Documents/11.12.21%20CWBC%20Lunch%20and%20Learn%20Flyer.docx&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fsp2010%2Fsocieties%2FSCCAAP%2FShared%2520Documents%2FForms%2FAllItems%2Easpx%3FView%3D%7Bd88dc17d%2Dc595%2D4a01%2Db776%2D10686cc6a627%7D%26SortField%3DModified%26SortDir%3DDesc&DefaultItemOpen=1>

Thanks for all you do!

Eboni Whitehurst, MPH

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Provider Survey: Health Care Transition and Barriers To Care

The purpose of the survey is to assess barriers to health care and transition support needs for adolescents and young adults with neurodevelopmental disorders (ex. neuropsychiatric problems or impaired motor function, learning, language, or non-verbal communication). **If you completed this survey in June 2021, you do not need to complete it again.**

Adult and pediatric healthcare providers are requested to complete the survey to determine if perceived barriers and transition needs are similar or different based on provider specialty. The survey will also gather data on educational and clinical resources healthcare providers wish they had as they provide care to this frequently medically complex population. We hope this information will lead to enhanced healthcare transition program development in South Carolina and facilitate the provision of comprehensive services to individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities in the medical home.

The survey can be accessed at <https://redcap.ghs.org/surveys/?s=F9MFCDYKYD>. The survey can be completed in under 10 minutes. Your responses are anonymous.

This survey was developed with support from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Chapter Grant Program.

This survey has been reviewed for an IRB and given Not Human Subject Research (NHSR) status.

Thank you for your participation. Any questions about the survey can be sent to Sarah Hinton, MD at Sarah.Hinton@prismahealth.org or Nancy Powers, MD at Nancy.Powers@prismahealth.org

Additional Medicaid Provider Relief Funding Available From US Department of Health and Human Services

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Healthy Connections
MEDICAID



MEDICAID ALERT

TO: All Providers

SUBJECT: Additional Medicaid Provider Relief Funding Available from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is distributing an additional \$25.5 billion in provider relief funds (PRF Phase 4) to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program

(CHIP) providers who participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs, including the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program.

Consistent with the requirements included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020, PRF Phase 4 payments will be based on providers' lost revenues and expenditures between July 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021. In its announcement, HHS stated it would reimburse smaller providers for their lost revenues and COVID-19 expenses at a higher rate compared to larger providers. PRF Phase 4 will also include bonus payments for providers who serve Medicaid, CHIP, and/or Medicare patients. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will price these bonus payments at the Medicare rates.

Similarly, HRSA will make American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) rural payments to providers based on the amount of Medicaid, CHIP and/or Medicare services they provide to patients who live in rural areas as defined by the HHS Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. HHS' ARP rural payments will also generally be based on Medicare reimbursement rates.

Providers will apply for both programs in a single application. HRSA will use existing Medicaid, CHIP and Medicare claims data in calculating payments. **The application portal is now open.** The application period will close on Oct. 26, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Applications must undergo a number of validation checks before financial information is submitted so providers are encouraged to begin their application as soon as possible to ensure they are able to meet the deadline. To help ensure these provider relief funds are used for patient care, PRF recipients will be required to notify HHS of any merger with, or acquisition of, another health care provider during the period in which they can use the payments. Providers who report a merger

or acquisition may be more likely to be audited by HHS to confirm their funds were used for COVID-19-related costs.

HHS also announced a final 60-day grace period to help providers come into compliance with their PRF reporting requirements if they failed to meet the deadline on Sept. 30, 2021, for the first PRF reporting time period. While the deadlines to use funds and the reporting time period have not changed, HHS will not initiate collection activities or similar enforcement actions for noncompliant providers during this grace period.

More information about eligibility and the application process for HHS PRF and ARP rural funds is [available on HHS' website](#). HHS' Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal is also [available on HHS' website](#). More information is also available in HHS' announcement of the additional funds described above, which can be viewed [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program.

[View Alert](#)

AAP President Presenting Grand Rounds at the Medical University of South Carolina

The AAP President, Lee Beers, MD, will be presenting Grand Rounds at Medical University of South Carolina on December 3rd at 8:00 am.

Dawn Greco

Executive Assistant

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Postpartum Resource Information

It is our hope that the attached information will be helpful and a good resource for physicians to have in treating their patients mothers' pre and postpartum. Some of the information can be shared with their patients' mothers.

<http://sp2010/societies/SCCAAP/Shared%20Documents/Post%20Partum%20Educational%20Materials-20211018T004101Z-001.zip>

Jodi Glasser, LICSW CP

Outreach PSI, Postpartum Support International