

The Forum

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What to Salvage? What to Build?

The state budget is a disaster, for us in health care, for children and teachers in schools, for homeless people, for towns and roads and firemen. The MCAAP Executive Committee has been struggling to decide how best to advocate for children, and we need your help.

Top on our list so far is that all children must have access to those most cost-effective preventive measures such as vaccines, preventive medications for diseases like asthma and diabetes, and screenings for birth and metabolic defects, anemia, lead poisoning, deafness, myopia, and dental disease.

Massachusetts is a universal distribution state for all recommended vaccines and does have universal birth defects screening. Beyond that, we struggle to provide anything else universally, even now. We depend on Medicaid, CMSP, and the Free Care Pool to provide access to primary and emergency care, and all three of these programs are slated for cuts. Even within those programs, "benefits" such as mental health care, medications, dental care, and glasses are only available in selected cases.

We are no longer in a position to advocate for improvements in our broken system; we have to help define those programs that are essential, without which disaster will befall the state. The bargaining chips being used include co-payments for services and medications, decreases in benefits

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CMSP Claims Due in July 2003

Patty Wilson

All charges for services from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, to enrollees of the Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP) and members of the Healthy Start Program (HSP) must be received no later than July 11, 2003. The state closes its 2003 fiscal year in August, and no payments can be issued for claims or claim inquiries received after July 11, 2003, as a result.

If you have any questions, outstanding claims, or claims for CMSP medical services you would like reconsidered, please call the CMSP Service Center's toll-free number at (800) 909-2677 or write to

**Children's Medical Security Plan,
P.O. Box 519, Andover, MA 01810-0009.**

If you have any questions, outstanding claims, or claims for HSP medical services you would like reconsidered, please call the HSP Service Center's toll-free number at (888) 488-9161 or write to **Healthy Start Program, P.O. Box 1977, Andover, MA 01810-0033.**

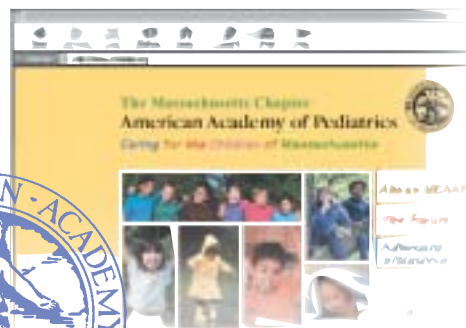
If you have any questions, outstanding claims, or claims for dental services (CMSP only) you would like reconsidered, please call the Wellpoint Dental Services' toll-free number at (800) 234-9778 or write to **UNICARE, P.O. Box 9178, Oxnard, CA 93031-9178.**

What Is the MCAAP Doing for You?

David Chung, M.D.

As budget cuts threaten the quantity and quality of services that are provided to all members of the Commonwealth, it is our responsibility to do our part to reduce health care costs in a responsible manner. MassHealth recently adopted a tiered structure for pharmacy benefits following the lead of other major insurers in Massachusetts. Although it is not the rightful place of insurance companies to dictate the care of our patients, there are many medications which are therapeutically equivalent but may have a substantially different cost from health plan to health plan. Keeping up with these formulary changes is a daunting task.

The MCAAP is embarking on a project to compile a pediatric-friendly formulary list from the various health plans for use



by pediatricians in the office. This is similar to a publication produced by the Massachusetts Medical Society, but it is different in three important ways. The formulary listing will specifically include liquid formulations of commonly used pediatric medications. The appendix will list available concentrations of the liquid formulations. The entire list will be kept up to date on the

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Massachusetts Hospital School Offers Respite Opportunity

Karen Madden, N.P., B.C.

The Massachusetts Hospital School (MHS) in Canton, a fully JCAHO-accredited Department of Public Health residential facility for children and adolescents with physical disabilities, is offering a weekend respite program. The program is a pilot study; therefore, it is currently free of charge. It is open to any family who is a resident of Massachusetts with a child 5 to 22 years of age with a special health care need. The program was developed to serve these families and offer them a safe environment where they can leave their child with experienced staff for the weekend, which will help to improve their quality of life. The only restrictions for eligibility would be any child who is ventilator dependent or who requires 1:1 monitoring.

The program runs from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. The program offers skilled nursing care 24 hours a day to meet the child's individualized special care needs, peer socialization, a physician on call 24 hours a day, three hospital-level meals a day, and unstructured activities. The program is unable to provide therapy services during the child's stay. The family must provide the child's medications, which must be labeled, durable medical equipment, enteral supplies, and transportation.

To apply, the family or referral source contacts the coordinator of the program. There will be a screening process over the phone to determine eligibility. If eligible, an appointment is made at that time for the family and child to come to the MHS for an intake meeting, which consists of a history and physical and a tour of the facility.

Currently, there are only two beds available each weekend depending on staffing levels.

The goal of the program is to expand the services as we are able to find funding sources. There is currently no waiting list.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact Karen Madden, N.P. B.C., at (781) 830-8419 or e-mail her at Karen.Madden@state.ma.us.

CORRECTION

In the previous issue of *The Forum*, in the article on medical homes, the telephone number of **New England SERVE** was listed incorrectly.

The correct telephone number is (617) 574-9493. This number has been updated online at www.mcaap.org.

'PARI' Nebulizer Program

We supply the pediatric physician's office with nebulizers to be dispensed to patients in need. This program is easy for the physician and easy for the patient. Call for details and references.

RELIABLE RESPIRATORY
(781) 551-3335
Servicing New England

Looking to Hire or Be Hired?

Job listings are a free service provided by *The Forum* to MCAAP members and residents completing their training.

Nonmembers may submit ads for a fee.

If you are looking to fill a position

MCAAP members: Free

Nonmembers: \$250

Please submit the following information:

- Practice name
- Position title and description (25-word limit)
- Availability (e.g., starting June 2003)
- Contact name
- Address, telephone number, and e-mail address

If you are looking for a job

MCAAP members and residents: Free

Nonmembers: \$50

Please submit the following information:

- Your name
- Contact information
- Residency program
- Availability (e.g., available now)
- Comment (25-word limit)

Please send text information via e-mail to dchung@mcaap.org. Checks may be mailed to the MCAAP office, c/o Cathleen Haggerty, Executive Director, P.O. Box 9132, Waltham, MA 02454-9132. All submissions must be received by June 15, 2003, to be included in the next issue of *The Forum*. All submissions are subject to review for appropriateness. For further information, please contact the editor at dchung@mcaap.org.

The following physicians are looking to be hired:

Physician Name:

- Linda C. Loney, M.D., FAAP

Contact Information:

- (617) 969-2754 (home)

- (617) 721-5715 (cell)

- lcloney@RCN.com

Residency Program:

- St. Louis Children's Hospital
1976-1980

Availability:

- Immediate for part-time position

Description:

- Interested in locum tenens/part-time position within a one hour drive of Newton. Strong background in children with disabilities. Currently attending massage therapy school.

Physician Name:

- Hanita T. Oh-Tan, M.D.

Contact Information:

- (703) 931-1089 (home)

- (703) 582-7512 (cell)

- hanita_oh@yahoo.com

Residency Program:

- Children's National Medical Center, Washington D.C.,
Primary Care Track 2000-2003

Availability:

- July 2003

Description:

- Looking for a part-time or full-time position in Boston and surrounding suburbs. Mostly interested in a primary care position but also interested in urgent care and hospitalist work.

President's Message

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for maintenance of eligibility, and increased insurance premiums for funding the Free Care Pool, our ultimate safety net. In order to maintain our status as respected advocates for children, the MCAAP has to talk this language, compromise, and broker previously unthinkable bargains.

We need your input and help. "Input" first: Call or write us with your priorities and your bottom lines, below which we should not go. "Help" second: Over the next couple of months, help children by talking or writing to your legislators. If you have not done this before, we will help you do it.

- John G. (Sean) Palfrey, M.D., FAAP

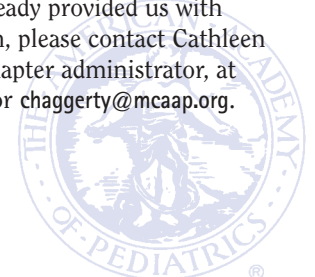
What Is the MCAAP Doing for You?

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MCAAP website (www.mcaap.org), and updates can also be faxed to your office periodically. Formulary information can be posted in each examination room to facilitate its use.

By adhering to formulary guidelines, we can realistically lower the cost of care provided in the Commonwealth. Additionally, patients will spend less of their own money on expensive co-pays for non-formulary items, particularly as some health plans are increasing medication deductible levels. This translates into higher patient satisfaction.

In order for this initiative to be successful, health plans must recognize the MCAAP as the best source to notify pediatricians of changes in their formularies. This will only be possible if you provide us with your fax and e-mail information. If you have not already provided us with your information, please contact Cathleen Haggerty, our chapter administrator, at (781) 895-9852 or chaggerty@mcaap.org.



SAVE THE DATE

2003 MCAAP CME Program, Annual Meeting, and Dr. Edward Penn Memorial Lecture

Wednesday, May 14, 2003, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Massachusetts Medical Society Headquarters
860 Winter Street, Waltham*

TOPICS IN PEDIATRICS

Screening for Depression in Your Offices

Michael Jellinek, M.D.

Terrorism in Our Society

Joseph Hagan, M.D.

Case Discussions in Pediatric Urology

Bart Cilento, Jr., M.D.

Going from HIPAA Aware to HIPAA Compliant

David Chung, M.D.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Children's Medical Security Program and Healthy Start Program

The deadline for receipt
of claims for services
provided from
July 1, 2002, through
June 30, 2003, is July 11, 2003.

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The Forum

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