



# Louisiana Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics PROGRESS NOTES *Fall 2010*

*To be advocates for children in Louisiana*

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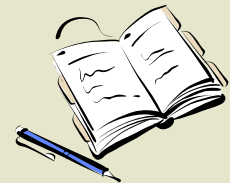
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**Mark Your Calendars:**

9/10-12/10

[Pediatric Potpourri](#)  
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If you have something you would like to submit for inclusion in the next newsletter, please submit the information to [ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org).

## AAP Resources on Meaningful Use

On Tuesday, July 13, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services released its Final Rule on Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records (EHR). AAP staff reviewed the Final Rule and developed several resources to guide pediatricians and their practices in achieving Meaningful Use. They can be accessed by visiting [www.aap.org/ehr](http://www.aap.org/ehr)

Click on the links below to download each pdf:

[Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records: An Overview](#)  
[Functional Requirements](#)  
[Medicaid Incentives](#)

[Becoming a Meaningful User](#)  
[Quality Reporting](#)

In addition, the following checklists have been developed to walk pediatricians involved in EHR implementation in ambulatory and inpatient settings through achieving Meaningful Use:

[Inpatient Checklist](#)

[Outpatient Checklist](#)

Stay tuned. Your Chapter is actively involved in bringing more resources to you soon!

### Pediatrician Reimbursement Rates in August 1, 2010 Emergency Rules

In the emergency rules published on August 1, 2010, pediatrician reimbursement rates did not receive any additional cuts. In the January 22, 2010, emergency rules, pediatrician service codes were cut from 90%-120% of Medicare rates to 90% of Medicare rates across the board for services to children under 16 years of age. The August 1, 2010, rules cut the rate of reimbursement for laboratory and radiology services by 4.6% and repealed the enhanced payments available to Community CARE providers.

DHH has updated their fee schedule to include the January 22, 2010, reductions and are determining how, and over what time period, they will recoup those adjustments. All adjustments collected from the January 22nd and August 1st rate reductions will be counted in the FY11 budget. It will take several months to determine if these rate reductions will fill the gap in the budget. Even with these reductions, mid-year cuts are anticipated.

The Chapter continues to work with DHH staff on developing innovative ways to contain costs in hopes to avoid major across the board cuts in the future.

For a historical summary of recent changes, go to:

[www.laaap.org/pdf/Summary%20of%20Reimbursement%20Methodology%20for%20Physicians.pdf](http://www.laaap.org/pdf/Summary%20of%20Reimbursement%20Methodology%20for%20Physicians.pdf)

The following link provides the new rate schedule: [www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/fee\\_schedules/FEESCHED.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/fee_schedules/FEESCHED.pdf)

Visit the LA Medicaid Provider Support Center to see all recent announcements: [www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/)

### Protect Tomorrow Website Focuses on Importance of Immunizations

In the June issue of *AAP News*, members received a DVD Containing a public service announcement about the importance of immunizations. With support from Sanofi Pasteur, AAP has launched a webpage which contains several PSAs that can be shared with parents emphasizing the importance of vaccinations. [www.aap.org/protecttomorrow](http://www.aap.org/protecttomorrow)

### Louisiana HEDIS Measures Available Online

HEDIS, Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information, measures were originally developed as a standardized way for employers to use when selecting health care plans for their employees. Now, the measures are used by everyone from consumers to public programs to assess and compare physician and health plan performance.

Over the past 3 years, the Louisiana Medicaid program has been calculating HEDIS measures using claims data. Currently there are 18 measures being calculated on a quarterly basis and the results can be viewed online by visiting: [www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?ID=340&Detail=8721](http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?ID=340&Detail=8721)

### Pediatric Day Health Center to Open in Baton Rouge

*By Dr. David Thomas, MD, Ph.D.*

Dear Colleagues;

It is my privilege to introduce you to a new concept in pediatric patient care in the greater Baton Rouge community, Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPEC), recently introduced in Louisiana as Pediatric Day Health Centers (PDHC).

PDHCs provide medically fragile children with skilled care using an intra-disciplinary process designed to maximize outcomes while minimizing costs. Moreover, PDHC facilities improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable patients and their families through the delivery of high-tech clinical care in a medically-safe, developmentally appropriate and socially stimulating environment.

Pediatric Health Choice (PHC), the largest operator of PPECs, has pioneered this innovative model in other states for years and has demonstrated outstanding outcomes. I have personally visited PHC's facilities and interacted with their patients, families and clinical personnel. I was so impressed that I volunteered to serve as their Medical Director. My position is to assist in implementation of the processes that you prescribe for your patients-children and insure the quality you expect is delivered.

You can find additional information by visiting their website at <http://www.pediatricchc.com>. To download an informational pdf, visit: [www.laaap.org/pdf/Pediatric%20Day%20Health%20Center%20Information%20Flyer.pdf](http://www.laaap.org/pdf/Pediatric%20Day%20Health%20Center%20Information%20Flyer.pdf)

I look forward to working with you and please feel free to call me personally at (225) 202-8026 for questions and concerns.

Respectfully,

David Thomas MD PhD  
Pediatric Pulmonary and Sleep

### FMAP Extension Signed into Law

On Thursday, August 5, 2010, the United States Senate voted by a measure of 61-38 to pass legislation that would extend enhanced FMAP (federal medical assistance program) funding to states through June 2011. The bill provides for a total of \$16.1 billion in increased Medicaid matching funds. The House convened on August 10, 2010, to vote on the Senate bill. The bill passed by a vote of 247-161 and was signed into law by President Obama that evening.

You can read AAP's press release [here](#).

## LHCQF Named R.E.C. for Health Information Exchange by Micaela Coner, MBA (LA Health Care Quality Forum)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 contained health information technology grants designed to help improve the quality and effectiveness of health care in America through the expanded use of electronic health records (EHRs). The initiatives specifically aimed to reduce health information technology barriers and to incentivize use. The overall goal: all Americans will have access to their personal EHR by 2014.

Related legislation under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act established programs under Medicare and Medicaid to provide eligible professionals and hospitals with financial incentives as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

To assist health care providers with technical assistance, guidance and information to support and accelerate their efforts to become meaningful users of EHRs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established 60 Regional Extension Centers (RECs) across the country. The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum Regional Extension Center stands ready to work with providers in Louisiana to improve the quality and value of health care delivery through achievement of meaningful use.

Services provided by the Quality Forum REC include practice assessment, EHR product selection assistance, preferred pricing for clients, "best practice" sharing, onsite project management of implementation, educational opportunities and online forums, to name a few.

Using CMS guidelines, the REC staff can assist you in determining which category of incentives best meets your profile. The decision will be based on a number of factors, such as patient mix. Some private pediatric practices may not meet the 20% patient volume bar for Medicaid. If you do not meet the eligibility guidelines to receive Medicare or Medicaid incentive payments, you may still receive subsidized assistance for adopting and utilizing EHRs through the REC.

Pediatricians in individual or small group practices are considered priority primary care providers. For this reason, the resources or services they obtain through the REC may be subsidized through the federal government. In addition, REC clients may receive volume purchasing discounts for hardware and software. REC staff can also assist you in meeting alternative goals such as Patient-Centered Medical Home certification through the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

To view and download a Meaningful Use Primer, visit : [www.laaap.org/pdf/Meaningful%20Use%20Primer.pdf](http://www.laaap.org/pdf/Meaningful%20Use%20Primer.pdf)

For more information on incentive payments, meaningful use or REC services, please contact the Louisiana Health Care Quality Form at [rec@lhcf.org](mailto:rec@lhcf.org).

CMS has developed a website dedicated to the EHR Incentive Program. To learn more, visit:  
[www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms).

August is National Immunization Awareness Month sponsored by the National Centers for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Access a toolkit with resources for promoting National Immunization Awareness Month, including sample media announcements, Web badges and more, at [www.healthfinder.gov/nho/augtoolkit.aspx](http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/augtoolkit.aspx).

### DHH Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs)

As you may already know, DHH is working to shift Medicaid and LACHIP from a fee-for-service delivery system to coordinated care networks. There are two models of networks that can be developed: Prepaid CCNs (CCN-P) and Shared Savings CCNs (CCN-S). DHH is in the process of developing all of the details for each model and has posted draft agreements and policy manuals for each on their website. Companies or groups wishing to form a service network will have to complete an agreement follow the policies set forth by the department and prove they have capacity to provide care. This is not a competitive bid process.

As the details are being finalized, LA AAP continues to remain involved in the discussion in order to gain a better understanding of how the new networks will affect providers and their practices. You will likely be contacted by groups considering putting a network together to gauge your interest. DHH has said this process should not force providers to choose one network over another but, rather, to be able to participate in multiple networks to meeting their patient needs just as they opt to be in several networks in the private pay sector.

DHH has a dedicated website to this initiative that is regularly updated. It also has a section for FAQs. Visit [www.makingmedicaidbetter.com](http://www.makingmedicaidbetter.com) under Healthcare Providers for more information.

### Parent Resources for Back to School

The AAP has developed several resources for parents on a range of topics from backpack safety, developing good homework and study habits to bullying and making their first day easier. To review all the tips from AAP, go to <http://aap.org/advocacy/releases/augschool.cfm>.

PROS is currently working on a variety of projects and recruiting for studies that test ways to help parents quit smoking (CEASE) and to determine the age of puberty onset for young boys (SSCIB). If you are interested in participating in one of these studies or in future studies, visit: [www.aap.org/pros/index.htm](http://www.aap.org/pros/index.htm) or contact Shelly Martin, MD FAAP at [smartin@brclinic.com](mailto:smartin@brclinic.com)



The Fall 2010 Newsletter report now available [here](#).

You can view past PROS reports at: [www.laaap.org/otherpublication.htm](http://www.laaap.org/otherpublication.htm)



Asthma Health Education by Louisiana Pharmacists (Asthma HELP) is a FREE program offered to LA Medicaid recipients with asthma through a collaborative between DHH and Hospitals Benefits Management Program and is administered by the University of Louisiana at Monroe College of Pharmacy. They provide asthma counseling and education over the telephone.

[Click here](#) to be directed to the website. Toll-Free Number for patients: 866-762-2404