

## **30-MONTH WELL CHILD VISIT**

### **GOAL**

Pediatricians should receive appropriate reimbursement for current standards of well child care.

### **CURRENT PRACTICE**

Most health insurance companies have yet to recognize the 30-month well child visit as an integral part of routine pediatric preventive health care.

### **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

All health insurance companies in Pennsylvania should recognize the 30-month well visit as the new standard of care in pediatric preventive medicine and reimburse pediatricians accordingly. Fee-for-service plans should include this visit in their list of covered services in the third year of life. Capitated HMO plans should increase their capitation rates for this age bracket.

### **SUPPORTING EVIDENCE/RATIONALE**

- Evidence suggests that a significant number of patients with developmental concerns are currently missed at an early age, resulting in later and less effective intervention.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics *Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care* now includes a 30-month well child visit in the current standard of care.
- Children experience numerous developmental changes between the ages of 24 and 30 months, particularly with respect to fine and gross motor coordination, language development, and social communication.
- It is well documented that early identification of developmental issues facing children results in earlier intervention and better outcomes for these children at lower cost to insurers and society. The 30-month visit includes structured developmental screening as part of the American Academy of Pediatrics' increased focus on the early diagnosis of developmental problems in children.
- Bright Futures guidelines also call for a comprehensive physical examination at the 30-month visit, allowing for earlier identification of treatable medical conditions.
- The 30-month visit provides an opportunity to ensure that all children are appropriately vaccinated, including receiving the influenza vaccine during the winter months.

### **REFERENCES**

Bright Futures Guidelines for the Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. American Academy of Pediatrics, 2008.

Pediatrics 2006; 118: 405-420