



Pennsylvania Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Pennsylvania
Chapter

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

On behalf of our collective organizations, thank you for your leadership and efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Pennsylvania. Alongside Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, you have been a reliable resource for our members across the Commonwealth.

Our primary care physician members are on the frontlines of this rapidly evolving public health emergency, caring for and providing guidance to their patients, families and communities. In order to provide high-quality, timely care to their patients, while helping to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we urge you to consider taking the following policy actions:

- Mandate reimbursement for telemedicine services by commercial health insurers at the same rate as in-person visits. Broadening physicians' options to utilize mainstream telehealth and virtual health methods will help patients and physicians deal with this crisis more efficiently and effectively and enable patients seeking routine care the ability to avoid potential exposure to the virus.
- Request physician licensing reciprocity from neighboring states in order to ensure that patients near our borders can receive care from Pennsylvania physicians.
- Order expedited credentialing of physicians by commercial health insurers to ensure newly licensed physicians and physicians who may need to move their offices to respond to this crisis have no delay in the credentialing process.
- Direct commercial health insurers to suspend prior authorization requirements in order to lessen time-consuming administrative burdens on already strained providers, allowing them to focus on patient care.

We believe that adoption of the above measures will help ensure more timely, effective care during this challenging time. Please utilize our organizations as a resource and don't hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and consideration of these proposals.

Sincerely,



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CC: Rachel Levine, MD, Secretary of Health
Teresa Miller, Secretary of Human Services
Jessica Altman, Insurance Commissioner
The Honorable Joe Scarnati, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Mike Turzai, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Jake Corman, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Bryan Cutler, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Jay Costa, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Frank Dermody, House Minority Leader