



May 14, 2010

Federal Legislative Update

New FAQ Document on Health Reform Implementation

The Academy has updated a Frequently Asked Questions document on the new health reform law and what it means for children and pediatricians. The FAQ as well as a series of new one-page fact sheets on health reform implementation are available on the main page of the AAP [Member Center](#) and on FederalAdvocacy.aap.org. Additional resources on health reform implementation will be added in the coming weeks.

Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report

On Tuesday, The White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity issued a report of more than 70 recommendations to help reduce childhood obesity rates in the United States.

The Task Force was created as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative, of which the Academy is an [official partner](#). The AAP released a [press statement](#) in support of the report's findings, which mirror many of the Academy's long-standing guidelines and incorporate several specific recommendations that the AAP made to the Task Force.

Young Adult Dependent Coverage

On Monday, the White House issued proposed rules for a provision in the new health reform law that allows young adults to remain on their parents' employer-sponsored health insurance up to age 26. Under the rules, health insurance companies must set the same premium rates for dependents of all ages up to age 26, regardless of whether they live with their parents, are married, attend college or receive financial support from their parents. There is no federal requirement compelling a plan or issuer to offer dependent coverage at this time—however, the vast majority of group health plans offer dependent coverage and many family policies exist in the individual market.

Although the provision is not scheduled to take effect until Sept. 23, 2010, several large insurers voluntarily pledged to implement it ahead of schedule this summer. On Monday, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius reported that 65 companies promised to comply with the provision as early as this month so that graduating college seniors have the option to remain on their parents' plans. For more information on the new regulations, visit http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/adult_child_fact_sheet.html.

Antitrust Amendment

On Thursday, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) introduced an amendment to repeal the antitrust exemption for the health insurance industry. Sen. Leahy introduced the amendment to the *Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010* (S 3217), which is currently under consideration in the Senate. The amendment is based upon legislation Sen. Leahy submitted to Congress last year, the *Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009*. That bill is still under consideration by the Senate, but the House overwhelmingly passed its version this year, the *Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act*, by a vote of 406-19. The Obama Administration supports the measure and the Academy endorsed nearly identical legislation last year. In endorsing the amendment, the Academy has argued that the current exemption of business and insurance companies from federal antitrust laws negatively impacts children. Sen. Leahy's antitrust amendment is necessary for children and their families to see lower prices, more choices and better service from insurance companies.

Pre-Participation Sports Evaluation

On Thursday, David T. Bernhardt, MD, FAAP, spoke at a press event in Washington, DC on a pre-participation sports evaluation (PPE) designed to offer health professionals a systematic, standardized approach to screening young athletes from middle school through college. The PPE provides the medical background for decisions by the individual athlete's physician or the team physician. Dr. Bernhardt is a co-editor of the PPE, which was developed in collaboration with the AAP, the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine. Teri McCambridge, MD, FAAP, Chair of AAP's Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness (COSMF), also spoke at the event.