

Urgent Update: Rhode Island Pediatric Primary Care Relief Program URGENT ACTION REQUIRED!

7/3/2020

It has come to our attention that in order to apply for the RIPPCR, you will need a D-U-N-S number for compliance purposes. You can obtain a D-U-N-S number at the following link: [Dun&Bradstreet D-U-N-S Number](#). The site says that it may take 1-2 weeks to obtain a number, but our understanding is that it should only take 1-2 days, perhaps less. Please take this into account in the timing of your application as there is only a 2 week window. Please contact us as soon as possible if you have difficulties with this extra step, as we might need to advocate for a work around or extension.

Greg, Beth, Pat, and Peter

7/2/2020

Greetings to our pediatric colleagues,

We are very pleased to announce that the Rhode Island Pediatric Primary Care Relief Program is now live!

Over the past 3 months, the leadership of the RIAAP has been working closely with the Governor's office, the Office of the Medicaid Director, the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, and the Department of Health to advocate for the health of children of Rhode Island during the COVID-19 pandemic. When pediatricians were left out of many of the federal programs that helped to support Medicare funded practices at the beginning of this crisis, we were able to advocate for relief through Medicaid at the federal and state level. This new source of funding has been allotted by Governor Raimondo from the Rhode Island CARES Act funds, and is **separate and in addition** to any funding previously offered, including Medicare payments and Federal Provider Relief funds which were recently made available from HHS.

One factor which really resonated with the Governor and other state officials during our discussions was the drop in immunization rates in March and April. In exchange for the financial support of **primary care practices**, we have committed to catching our patients up on vaccines over the summer.

Program information and application instructions were put up on the EOHHS website earlier today. Applications are **due Thursday 7/16 at 5pm**. We know this is a fast turn-around, but getting applications by mid-July will enable the state to get payments out to practices in the next Medicaid payment cycle.

Practices that do not apply in time will not receive these funds, so we need your help:

- 1) If you do not already have one, apply for a [D-U-N-S number](#)
- 2) Have your practice apply by clicking on this link: [Rhode Island Pediatric Primary Care Relief Program](#)
- 3) Spread the word to your primary care colleagues to apply ASAP

- 4) Let us know that you got this notification, and that you've applied so that we can check you off of our list
- 5) Start coming up with a plan to catch your patients up on vaccines (we know you've already done this, but if you need more help, the RIAAP, KidsNet, and PCMH Kids have resources ready to go for you)

Thanks to all of you that helped us reach this point. We understand that we still have lots of work to do, but are hopeful that this work will put pediatricians on stronger financial footing for the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic and for years to come. Please reach out to any or all of us with and questions.

Happy Fourth of July!!!

Your COVID-19 advocacy team,

Greg, Peter, Beth, and Pat

Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP
President, Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
gregory_fox@brown.edu

Peter Pogacar, MD, FAAP
Treasurer, Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
prpogacar@gmail.com

Elizabeth Lange, MD, FAAP
Past President, Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Elizlange@cox.net

Patricia Flanagan, MD, FAAP
Past President, Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
PFlanagan@lifespan.org