

# AAP

## NEWS

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AAP News, the official newsmagazine of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is dedicated to informing, educating and inspiring readers on matters related to pediatric health care.

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## CMS expected to OK change for developmental screening code

from the AAP Committee on Coding and Nomenclature

There are positive indications that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will publish relative value units (RVUs) for CPT code 96110 in 2004, paving the way for reimbursement of developmental screening.

In April, the Academy presented recommendations to the American Medical Association/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) for CPT code 96110 (developmental testing; limited (e.g., Developmental Screening Test II, Early Language Milestone Screen), with interpretation and report).

The RUC approved the AAP-recommended direct practice expense inputs, which will be forwarded to CMS for consideration in the publica-

tion of the 2004 Medicare Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) physician fee schedule.

Code 96110 has zero total RVUs on the 2003 RBRVS fee schedule. If CMS accepts the RUC recommendations, it is anticipated that practice expense and professional liability RVUs will be published in the 2004 Medicare RBRVS physician fee schedule (which will be released around Nov. 1).

Lynn Mowbray Wegner, M.D., FAAP, chair-elect of the AAP Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, presented the Academy's recommendations along with Steven E. Krug, M.D., FAAP, AAP RUC advisor.

*Linda Walsh contributed to this article. For more information, contact her at (800) 433-9016, ext. 7931, or e-mail [lwalsh@aap.org](mailto:lwalsh@aap.org).*

## Members asked to consider making gift to commemorate AAP 75th anniversary

from AAP Development

People give to a cause for many reasons. Perhaps they receive a request that touches their heart. Or they have great appreciation for the arts and music. Maybe they or a loved one has experienced an illness for which a cure is being sought. Or, they might be involved or invested in an organization that represents their beliefs and philosophy.

Remarkably, more than \$212 billion was given to non-profit organizations through philanthropic giving last year, according to the American Association of Fundraising Council Trust for Philanthropy/Giving USA 2002. Of that total, individuals gave \$160 billion.

As a nonprofit organization, the Academy has been fund raising for many years and has benefited from the generous support of AAP members, corporations, foundations and other "friends." The effort to increase our level of support, particularly from individuals, recently has taken on new meaning and necessity given revised and restrictive guidelines coming from corporate supporters.

Several times each year, we send out an appeal requesting support for the Friends of Children Fund (FCF). This fund benefits those we serve — children, parents, caregivers and health professionals across the nation and the world. Over the years, the Academy has made a tangible difference in the lives of millions of children through significant advances in pediatric health, providing direction and advice, while at the same time creating and maintaining a "professional home" for our members.

Contributions to the Academy through Friends of Children provide an extra measure of support that enables the Board of Directors to continue annual funding of programs and projects critical to sustaining the AAP mission, even during times of budgetary constraint. Over the past 10 years, the FCF has supported initiatives,

including the Neonatal Resuscitation Program, Pediatric Research in Office Settings, resident research grants, violence prevention activities, substance abuse prevention, Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) planning and implementation grants, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, medical student outreach, breastfeeding promotion and more.

Another important AAP fund-raising effort is the Tomorrow's Children Endowment (TCE), an initiative with the goal of guaranteeing that funding to support children's health issues will be available far into the future through a strong, secure endowment. The TCE is an opportunity for members and friends of the Academy to "give today for tomorrow" through bequest, trust agreement, annuity, insurance policy or other planned gift vehicle. You don't have to make a gift today, but rather you make the commitment today for a gift that will come later.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Academy in 2005, AAP members are invited to make a commitment and help us increase the percentage of member giving annually to FCF from the current level of 6% participation to 15%. From there, we will build to 25% and more. At the same time, we encourage you to consider a commitment to the Tomorrow's Children Endowment.

For those who are committed to the Academy through voluntary service, voluntary association and voluntary giving, which is the true meaning of philanthropy, please accept our deepest gratitude. For those who have not yet supported the Academy, we ask that you consider making a gift before the end of the fiscal year and join us as we move closer to the 75th anniversary celebration. Your gift will make a difference.

*For more information, contact Eileen B. Murphy, AAP Development, at (888) 700-5378 or e-mail [emurphy@aap.org](mailto:emurphy@aap.org).*

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