**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**PS#91 – Pediatricians’ Experiences Managing Patients with High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP)**

This topic was initiated by the Committee on Child Health Financing (COCHF) to assess the commonality of HDHPs within pediatricians’ caseload and to collect data on members’ experiences with managing patients covered by these plans. Other questions included in PS#91 addressed pediatricians’ experiences with medical liability and related issues, initiated by the Committee on Medical Liability and Risk Management (COMLRM); findings on that topic are reported separately.

PS#91 was an 8-page self-administered questionnaire sent to 1614 nonretired U.S. members of the AAP, including pediatric residents, from June through December 2015; response to the survey was 49%. Analysis for this report on HDHPs was limited to 511 post-residency pediatricians who provide direct patient care in an office-based setting (66.7% of all respondents).

**Findings:**

- Most pediatricians are familiar with high deductible health plans (HDHPs): 24% are very familiar and 38% are somewhat familiar.
  - Younger pediatricians, practice owners, and those practicing in suburban areas are more likely than their counterparts to be familiar with HDHPs (all p<.05)

- Pediatricians report an average of 23% of their privately-insured patients are covered by HDHPs.
  - There is little variation in response by pediatricians’ practice or personal characteristics.

- About half of pediatricians say that their patients covered by HDHPs ‘often’ reduce or combine follow-up visits (51%) and use telephone consultations in lieu of office visits (47%).

- Few pediatricians report that non-HDHP patients ‘often’ reduce/combine follow-up visits (7%) or use telephone consultations in lieu of office visits (11%).
  - More General Pediatricians (i.e., those who spend >50% of their time in general pediatrics) than subspecialists report both HDHP-covered patients (49% vs 36%) and non-HDHP patients (13% vs 5%) ‘often’ use telephone consultations in lieu of office visits (p<.05).

- About one-third of pediatricians (35%) say they have more difficulty collecting fees from HDHP-covered than non-HDHP-covered patients, and 17% say they have about the same amount of difficulty collecting fees from these groups of patients; 41% could not answer as they are not involved in or knowledgeable about the billing in their practice.
  - There is little variation in response by pediatricians’ practice or personal characteristics.

- About one-half of pediatricians (49%) think their lower-income patients are less likely to be covered by HDHPs; 12% think they are more likely to be covered by HDHPs, and 30% do not have an opinion.

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