

**Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Comments on  
Pennsylvania Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan – Public Comment Period  
Notice 2023-14**

Comments submitted via email to [RA-IN-PolicyOffice@pa.gov](mailto:RA-IN-PolicyOffice@pa.gov)

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP) and its nearly 2,300 pediatrician members urge the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to update the Commonwealth's essential health benefits benchmark plan (EHB-benchmark plan) in accordance with updated clinical and practice guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

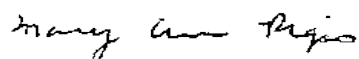
PA AAP recommends the inclusion of the following benefits in the revised EHB-benchmark plan:

- Coverage for dental care for adults, as many Pennsylvania pediatricians provide care to patients older than 18 years of age;
- Coverage for weight loss programs and bariatric surgery. This year, the AAP published [Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Obesity](#). These guidelines argue that lack of payment by insurers remains a major barrier to childhood obesity treatment. Given the prevalence of obesity (nearly 20%) and considering the short and long-term consequences of obesity (cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, hepatic steatosis), insurance plans should provide coverage for weight loss programs, bariatric surgery, and medications like semaglutide;
- Coverage for the RSV antibody, also known as *Beyfortus*; and
- Coverage for the RSV vaccine for pregnant people, also known as *Abrysvo*.

We are appreciative of the opportunity to provide public input on this important issue, and we look forward to continuing to participate in such opportunities in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding these comments.

In addition, all insurance plans in Pennsylvania should include coverage for the treatments, screenings, and procedures outlined in the [Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Bright Futures.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Rigas, MD, FAAP  
President  
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics