American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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November 25, 2008

Anne M. Mulcahy, Chairperson and CEO
Xerox Corporation
P.O. Box 4505
Norwalk, CT 06856-4505

Dear Ms Mulcahy:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) appreciates that Xerox Corporation is continually seeking the best healthcare coverage for its employees. The AAP also understands *affordable* health coverage is particularly important in this current economic climate. As members of the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC), we both also recognize that the medical home promotes quality and effective health care for both adults and children.

It has come to our attention that Xerox Corporation has recently notified its employees they can participate in a blended coverage option that provides reduced co-payments ($15) for visits to retail-based clinics (RBCs). While utilizing RBCs may seem like a good method for reducing costs, the AAP is concerned that RBCs will contribute to increased total costs due to the disruption of the medical home. In addition, the AAP believes that RBCs do not provide the type of care that is best for children.[1]

The AAP is committed to the medical home model, which provides accessible, family-centered, comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective care for which the pediatrician and the family share responsibility.[2] The success of this model is dependent on the consistent care that can be provided to patients in the medical home.

Advocates of RBCs often emphasize that they are only for “minor” conditions. Many pediatricians, however, regard these encounters as opportunities to address other concerns and health issues. Pediatricians also use these visits to strengthen the relationship with the family, which is key to the medical home model.

While RBCs seem to be addressing the need for affordable medical care, children still need a medical home, which provides the best quality care for the child and the basis for a healthier future. This is the model that the AAP supports and we feel RBCs are potentially destructive to that model. In addition, it is to the family’s detriment, we believe, to provide a financial incentive to them to utilize a resource other than the medical home for their medical care. We hope you will consider these points as you consider various coverage options for your employees and their children and as we join together in promoting and expanding the tremendous clinical value the medical home brings to health care delivery.

Sincerely,

David T. Tayloe, Jr. MD, FAAP
President
DT/hf

REFERENCES

1. American Academy of Pediatrics, Retail-based Clinic Policy Work Group. AAP principles concerning retail-based clinics. *Pediatrics*. 2006;118:2561-2562

2. American Academy of Pediatrics, Medical Home Initiatives for Children With Special Needs Project Advisory Committee. The medical home. *Pediatrics*. 2002;110:184-186