

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: July 12, 2023

Subject: Professional Services Fluoride Varnish Program

Summary: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a child's first dental visit occur as soon as the first tooth erupts, which is usually between 6 and 12 months of age, to help prevent future costly and painful dental diseases.

Early examination, intervention, guidance and referral can prevent future costly and painful dental diseases, including dental caries (cavities), which are almost completely preventable.

Fluoride varnish is a concentrated, thin material that is applied directly to the teeth to assist in preventing and potentially reversing very early decay that already has begun to develop. The American Dental Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend fluoride varnish application at least twice per year for infants and children starting at the age of 6 months.

Eligibility

In order to qualify for reimbursement, eligible disciplines must review the "Smiles for Life Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, and Counseling Module" and successfully pass the post assessment, at the link provided: <https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/>
Course No. 6: Caries Risk assessment, Fluoride Varnish & Counseling

Providers shall maintain a copy of the successfully completed post assessment certificate in their files for review. The only disciplines that may apply the fluoride varnish are eligible disciplines.

Fluoride Varnish Application Reimbursement

- Providers must bill CPT code: **99188**: Application of topical fluoride varnish
- Providers must bill ICDM-10 code: **Z41.8**: Need for fluoride varnish application

Fluoride varnish application is limited to eligible members from ages 6 months through 5 years. Services are limited to once every six months, and should be billed **6 months and 1 day apart**.

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and Rural Health Center (RHC) Providers

Reimbursable fluoride varnish services for Federally Qualified Health Centers/Rural Health Clinics are included in the all-inclusive encounter. Separate encounters for these services are not allowed, and the delivery of fluoride varnish services alone does not constitute an encounter visit. If fluoride varnish services are provided during an encounter, **please include the CPT code and diagnosis code shown above on your detail lines for reporting purposes.**

Provider Resources:

[ACLA Fluoride Varnish Provider Toolkit](#)

Questions: Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

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Need to update your provider information? Send full details to network@amerihealthcaritasla.com.