

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

**Date:** March 10, 2022

**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, appropriate providers must review the "Smiles for Life Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, and Counseling Module" and successfully pass the post assessment, at the link provided: [www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org](http://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 appropriate dental providers, physicians, nurse practitioners, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified medical assistants.

### Fluoride Varnish Application Reimbursement

Providers must bill CPT code: **99188**: Application of topical fluoride varnish

Provider must bill ICDM-10 code: **Z41.8**: Need for fluoride varnish application

Fluoride varnish application is limited to eligible recipients 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.**

### **Additional Educational Resources:**

- Well-Ahead Louisiana resources on preventive oral health: <https://wellaheadla.com/prevention/oral-health/>
- Well-Ahead resources for fluoride varnish applications by PCPs: <https://wellaheadla.com/prevention/oral-health/>
- American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Guidance Report on Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting (Clark et al., 2020)

### **References:**

*Clark M, Keels MA, Slayton RL. American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Guidance Report on Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting. Pediatrics Volume 146, number 6, December 2020: e20200034637*

**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](#).

**Missed an alert?** You can find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.

**Need to update your provider information?** Send full details to [network@amerihealthcaritasla.com](mailto:network@amerihealthcaritasla.com).

### **Where can I find more information on COVID-19?**

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for up-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.