



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

HOLLY BENSON
SECRETARY

July 24, 2008

Re: Coverage of Fluoride Varnish Application by Non-Dentists

Dear Health Plan:

The purpose of this letter is to serve as a supplemental notification to the May 2008 RV banner (Attachment "A"). The RV banner gave notification that effective April 15, 2008 application of the fluoride varnish as part of the preventive services for children may be provided in a physician's office. Physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners may provide this service together with an oral evaluation for a child 0 to 3 years of age. Fluoride varnish may also be applied to a child's teeth at the time of the Child Health Check-Up visit.

Please note that in addition to dental code D-1206 which previously limited fluoride application to dental offices, the Current CPT procedure code 99499 with modifier SC (medically necessary service) may be used for this service in a physician's office which includes an oral evaluation, risk assessment, parental counseling, application of varnish and referral to a dentist. Further clarification on details of the policy is also provided in Attachment "B" of this letter.

The oral evaluation and fluoride varnish application are preventive services which should be provided to high risk patients, preferably within the first six months of the eruption of the first primary tooth. The fluoride varnish application should include communication with and counseling of the child's caregiver. The caregiver should be informed if the child needs to be seen by a dentist. If a dental provider is not available in an area, physicians should notify the health plan that the child needs a dental visit.

If you have questions or require further clarification, please contact your Contract Manager at 487-2355.

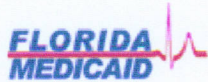
Sincerely,

Pilar C. Alsiro
Program Administrator

attachments



Attachment A



**Florida Medicaid
Remittance Banner Announcements & Health
Care Alerts**

**Agency for Health Care Administration
May 2008**

Provider Types: 25, 26, 29, 30, 66, 68, 77

Coverage of Fluoride Varnish Application by Non-Dentists

Effective April 15, 2008, Medicaid will cover the application of fluoride varnish when provided to beneficiaries in a physician's office. Physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners may provide this service and bill Medicaid for it using CPT procedure code 99499 with modifier SC (medically necessary service). Procedure code 99499 SC may be submitted once per claim on the same date of service. Medicaid payment for 99499 SC will be \$27.00 and is a combined payment amount for both the application of fluoride varnish and the oral evaluation for a child 0 to 3 years of age.

The oral evaluation and fluoride varnish application are preventive services which should be provided to high risks patients, preferably within the first six months of the eruption of the first primary tooth. The fluoride varnish application should include communication with and counseling of the child's caregiver. The caregiver should be informed if the child needs to be seen by a dentist. If a dental provider is not available in an area, physicians should notify the area Medicaid office that the child needs a dental visit.

Note: Fluoride varnish may also be applied to a child's teeth at the time of the Child Health Check-Up visit. It can be billed with procedure code 99499 SC, as noted above, in addition to the Child Health Check-Up visit code(s).

080517(3)

Attachment B

Medicaid Policy Guidelines

Effective immediately, Medicaid will cover the application of fluoride varnish when provided to beneficiaries in a physician's office. Fluoride varnish is an important preventive step in reducing early childhood caries (cavities). The oral evaluation and fluoride varnish application should be provided to high risks patients, preferably within the first six months of the eruption of the first primary tooth.

- Physicians should use CPT code 99499 with modifier SC (medically necessary service).
- The procedure includes an oral evaluation, risk assessment, parental counseling, application of varnish and referral to a dentist.
- The fluoride varnish procedure may be billed once every 3 months up to age 3.
- Procedure code 99499 SC reimburses physicians, ARNPs, and PAs \$27.00.
- The procedure may be submitted once per claim on the same date of service.
- When provided in a county health department (CHD) or federally qualified health center (FQHC), fluoride varnish must be billed using the CHD or FQHC fee-for-service group provider number. The treating provider number must be entered in item 24J on the 1500 claim form.
- Managed care plans are required to allow the additional provider type to be reimbursed for the service.
- Fluoride varnish may also be applied to a child's teeth at the time of the Child Health Check-Up visit. It can be billed with procedure code 99499 SC, as noted above, in addition to the Child Health Check-Up visit code(s).
- If a child comes to the office for immunizations, the oral evaluation and fluoride varnish can be provided during the same visit and billed using 99499 SC in addition to the immunization service.

This program was established to prevent early childhood caries and to refer the child to a dentist before severe decay and a toothache occurs. The caregiver should be informed that the child needs to be seen by a dentist for follow up treatment. If a dental provider is not available in an area, physicians should notify the health plan (if the recipient is enrolled with a health plan that covers dental services) or the area Medicaid office (if the recipient is in fee-for-service Medicaid or MediPass) that the child needs a dental visit.