

Smiles for Life
State-Specific Fluoride Varnish Information
North Dakota
Established in 2012

General Program Description

In 2007, the North Dakota Legislature passed legislation allowing health-care providers (physicians, physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses) to assess oral health and apply fluoride varnish to help prevent tooth decay for high-risk children ages birth through 21 years for Medicaid enrollees, or birth through 18 years for Healthy Steps enrollees . Research shows that application of fluoride varnish can reduce tooth decay by 25 to 45 percent and remineralize early carious lesions.

North Dakota Legal Authorities to Apply Fluoride Varnish

| North Dakota Century Code | Description |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 43-17-43 | <p>North Dakota Century Code Chapter 43-17-43 Physicians and Surgeons http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t43c17.pdf</p> <p>Topical fluoride varnish. A licensed physician or physician assistant may apply topical fluoride varnish to an individual in accordance with rules adopted by the board.</p> |
| 43-28-02.6 | <p>North Dakota Century Code Chapter 43-28-02.6 Dentists http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t43c28.pdf</p> <p>Exceptions. The provisions of this chapter do not apply: To a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered dental hygienist, or registered dental assistant who is applying topical fluoride varnish to an individual and is acting under the direct, or general supervision of a physician or licensed dentist if the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered dental hygienist, or registered dental assistant has successfully completed a training program approved by the board.</p> |
| 43-28-02.7 | <p>North Dakota Century Code Chapter 43-28-02.7 Dentists http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t43c28.pdf</p> <p>Exceptions. The provisions of this chapter do not apply: To an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 43-12.1 who is applying topical fluoride varnish to an individual and is acting within the scope of practice of the advanced practice registered nurse and has successfully completed a training program approved by the board.</p> |

Coding and Reimbursement

- 1) Verify that you or your clinic is an enrolled Medicaid provider, along with being an enrolled member of Blue Cross Blue Shield for Healthy Steps.**

An enrolled provider will have a current provider number.

2) For Medicaid clients - verify the client eligibility.

Medicaid pays for services provided only on the day in which the child is eligible for coverage. Providers may call the Eligibility Verification System at 800.428.4140 or 701.328.2891. You will need the provider number and the recipient’s Medicaid identification number for verification purposes.

For Healthy Steps clients – Healthy Steps is a 12-month continuous eligibility from birth through 18 years of age.

3) Submit claims for payment.

Claims may be submitted on paper or electronically for both Medicaid and Healthy Steps. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is a fast and cost effective alternative to paper claim submission.

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) link contains all filing instructions, CMS 1500 claim form and place of service codes: www.cms.gov.
- The National Uniform Claim Committee link contains all information regarding any revisions to the CMS 1500 claim form and filing information: www.nucc.org.
- Use CMS -1500 claim form.
- Use the dental procedure code **D1206** for fluoride varnish when billing Medicaid.
- Use the dental procedure code **D1206** and ICD 9 code **V07.31** for fluoride varnish when billing Healthy Steps.
- Bill Medicaid within one year from the date of service.
- Bill Healthy Steps within 18 months from the date of service.

The following coding must be used on all claim submissions:

| CDT Code | Description and Limitations | Reimbursement Rate |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D1206 | <p>Topical application of fluoride varnish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient must be younger than 21 years of age. • Oral health risk assessment should be conducted prior to application. • Two fluoride varnish applications are allowed annually per client. • Fluoride varnish should be applied at the time of a well baby or well child visit or health screening. • At the time of the fluoride varnish application, parent/guardian should be provided with information about the fluoride varnish procedure and proper oral health care for the child. • Only the following professionals may perform the procedure after receiving appropriate training and in accordance with the requirements of state law. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician • Physician assistant • Advanced practice registered nurse • Registered nurse • Licensed practical nurse • Registered dental hygienist • Registered dental assistant | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Medicaid</u> \$24.11 Effective 7/1/2013</p> <p>* Rural health clinics, FQHCs and IHS are paid an all-inclusive rate per visit for qualified enrollees.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Healthy Steps</u> \$42.00 Effective 7/1/2013</p> <p>*Remember when billing Healthy Steps to add the ICD 9 code V07.31 with the procedure code D1206.</p> |

* Beginning July 1, 2013, Healthy Steps will provide benefits to its members for topical application of fluoride varnish with a maximum benefit allowance of two applications per benefit period. This may be provided to the member during their well-child exam by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner who has received appropriate board-approved training. A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, under the direct supervision of a physician must submit under the physician's NPI if within their appropriate board license and after receiving appropriate board-approved training.

Questions

- For questions regarding coverage or billing guidelines for Medicaid, contact Provider Relations at 701.328.4030.
- For questions regarding coverage or billing guidelines for Healthy Steps, contact Provider Service, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota at 800.368.2312 or 701.282.1090.

Training and Certification Requirements

All health-care providers wishing to apply fluoride varnish must successfully complete a North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiner's approved training program through the Smiles for Life curriculum at www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org. Click on Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish and Counseling.

Upon completion of the Smiles for Life online curriculum, you are requested to complete the online training completion form which may be accessed [here](#). Submission of the training completion form will comply with the current requirement to apply fluoride varnish under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 43-17-43 for physicians and physician's assistants; and North Dakota Century Code Chapters 43-28-02.6 and 43-28-02.7 for advanced practice nurses, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

Public health hygienists are also available at no cost as an additional resource for information, as well as clinical fluoride varnish application demonstration training. To schedule a public health hygienist for a clinical fluoride varnish application at no cost to your organization, please call the North Dakota Department of Health's Oral Health Program administrative assistant at 800.472.2286 (press 1).

NOTE: Both free nursing contact hour and CME credit are available. A printed certificate of completion is needed for verification of CME credits. You must be a registered user to print a certificate of completion. (Register as a new user at the beginning of training.) To print a certificate of completion, you must complete all the post-test questions, a brief evaluation, and then press Submit to view the "Thank You" page where you have the option to print or save a certificate of completion.



**Online
Training!**

Forms for Your Reference

- [Online Training Completion Form](#) for submission upon completion of the Smiles for Life Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish and Counseling
- Instructions for completion of the CMS 1500 claim form, place of service codes, procedural and filing information: www.cms.gov or www.nucc.org
- [Guidelines of Caries-risk Assessment and Management](#) for Infants, Children and Adolescents
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry [Caries Risk Assessment Tool Quick Guide \(CAT\)](#)
- [Example of a Standing Medical Order](#) for Public Health Nurses
- [Fluoride Varnish Supply and Application Reference Guide](#)
(Used with permission from the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Oral Health Services)
- [Oral Health, Did You Know fact sheet for Health Professionals](#)
- [Fluoride varnish: Protect Your Child's Smile brochure](#)
- [Fluoride varnish: Parent/Guardian post-procedure information](#)
- [Supply Information for Fluoride Varnish](#)

Endorsements

The Smiles for Life curriculum is recognized and endorsed by the following organizations as an accredited training module for fluoride varnish screening and application:

- [American Academy of Family Physicians](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians](#)
- [North Dakota American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners](#)
- [North Dakota Board of Nursing](#)
- [North Dakota Dental Association](#)
- [North Dakota Department of Health's Oral Health Program](#)
- [North Dakota Medical Association](#)
- [North Dakota Nurse Practitioner's Association](#)
- [University of Mary Nursing Division](#)
- [University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Services](#)