**Smiles for Life**

**State-Specific Fluoride Varnish Information**

**Rhode Island 2014**

**General Program Description**

RIte Care offers an infant oral health program in which primary care practices are reimbursed for providing oral health evaluation, counseling, and application of fluoride varnish. A CPT billing code (D1206) was added to the Medicaid fee schedule of both RIte Care plans, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island and United HealthCare, to enable physicians to bill for these oral disease prevention services.

Formal training on oral health and fluoride varnish application is not required by Medicaid, but is advised before a medical practice performs oral health services and submits for reimbursement. Physicians, PAs, NPs, RNs, LPNs and medical assistants (under the supervision of a physician) are allowed to apply fluoride varnish, which can then be billed through the practice.

**Training Requirements**

There are no formal training requirements in order to bill RIte Care plans for oral health services, but it is highly recommended that practices receive training through one of the following programs:

*From the First Tooth, Engaging Primary Care Clinicians in Oral Health*

This program provides free office-based Lunch and Learn CME/CNE training. Utilizing the American Academy of Family Practice/Society of Teachers in Family Medicine’s *Smiles for Life* curriculum, the program also provides staff training in workflow, supplies/ordering, and billing procedures. *From the First Tooth* is funded by the DentaQuest Foundation. To schedule this no-cost training in your office, contact Jan Ruh at janrruh@gmail.com or 860-977-9233.

Society of Teachers in Family Medicine (STFM) Smiles for Life National Oral Health Curriculum

Online training on oral health topics across the lifespan, including Early Childhood Caries (ECC) and Fluoride Varnish, is available free-of-charge at http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Oral Health Risk Assessment Training for Pediatricians and Other Child Health Professionals

Free online training is available at http://www.aap.org (registration is required).

**Coding and Reimbursement**

Both RIte Care plans reimburse primary care providers for application of fluoride varnish, using the codes below:

* HCPCS: D1206 - Topical therapeutic fluoride varnish application for moderate to high risk caries patients.
* ICD-9: V07.31

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island: $18/application

Fluoride varnish is limited to members age 6 months to 48 months, 2 times a year without authorization, 4 times a year with authorization and rendered by the member’s PCP or covering practitioner.

United HealthCare: $13 /application

There are no age restrictions or limits on the number of times fluoride varnish can be applied.

**Required Documentation**

Documentation of the application of fluoride varnish is required in the medical record. Most EMRs include oral health in their programs. Written parental/guardian consent is not required.

*Note for 2015: With the US Preventive Service Task Force (USPSTF) giving fluoride varnish a level B recommendation in May 2014, according to the Affordable Care Act all insurers must provide this service free of charge to children 6 months up to age 6 by May of 2015. The new billing code will be CPT code 99188 with a modifier of 33. Implementation will occur over time up to May 2015.*

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