

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: August 29, 2024

Subject: Fluoride Varnish Application to Primary Teeth of All Enrollees Aged 6 Months through 5 years by Primary Care Clinicians

Summary: The United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that Fluoride Varnish Application be applied by primary care clinicians to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at first tooth eruption and until a dental home is established.¹

Dental caries is the most common chronic disease of children but almost completely preventable. If left untreated, oral health conditions in children can lead to severe infections, as well as affect growth, development, and quality of life.¹

Fluoride varnish is a concentrated, thin material applied directly to the teeth to assist in preventing and possibly reversing early tooth decay that has already begun to develop.

What you need to know:

To qualify for reimbursement of fluoride varnish application, eligible Primary Care Clinicians must:

- Review 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/>

Providers must maintain a copy of the successfully completed post-assessment certificate in their files for review.

Fluoride Varnish Application Reimbursement:

Fluoride varnish application is limited to once every six months for eligible recipients aged 6 months through 5 years.²

CPT Code	99188	Application of topical fluoride varnish
ICDM-10 Code	Z41.8	Need for fluoride varnish application

Reimbursable fluoride varnish services for Federally Qualified Health Centers/Rural Health Centers are included in the all-inclusive encounter; separate encounters for these services are not allowed and application of fluoride varnish services alone does not constitute an encounter visit.

Additional Provider Resource: [AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Fluoride Varnish Application 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](#).

Reference:

1 "Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting" <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/146/6/e2020034637/33536/Fluoride-Use-in-Caries-Prevention-in-the-Primary?autologincheck=redirected>; accessed 7/22/24.

2 Louisiana Department of Health Informational Bulletin 16-7, Revised June 27,2017: Professional Services Fluoride Varnish Program Policy https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Informational_Bulletins/16-07/IB16-07_revised6.27.17.pdf

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