



# ORAL DISEASE PREVENTION IN PRIMARY CARE

## Services and Reimbursement for Children 0 –3

### Fluoride Varnish

Non-dental health care professionals may apply and bill Medicaid for fluoride varnish application. In Virginia, this includes Physicians, Physician Assistants, Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioners and Nurses (RN and LPN).

Medicaid providers are reimbursed for the procedure for a total of six applications from the age of six months up to the third birthday. Frequency of application is approximately every six months and should be accompanied by age appropriate preventive services as outlined in the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care. The procedure will not be reimbursed on or after the child’s third birthday.

### Billing for Fluoride Varnish Application

Fluoride varnish application by medical providers is reimbursed by **Standard Fee for Service Medicaid and all Managed Care Medicaid plans**. Varnish billing is done in the same manner as medical procedures. Claims should be sent using the correct medical claim form or electronic invoice to the appropriate medical carrier. Use the procedure code assigned to the Fluoride Varnish procedure below.

Diagnosis Code	Procedure Code	Description	Reimbursement
Z29.3 Prophylactic fluoride administration	99188	Topical fluoride varnish; therapeutic application for moderate to high caries risk patients	\$20.79

### Preventive Services

#### Oral Health Risk Assessment and Screening

An oral health **risk assessment** and an exam of hard and soft tissues in the oral cavity should be performed beginning at the 6- month well child visit and continuing until a dental home can be established for each child.

#### Dental Referral

Referral for dental services should be made at the 12 month visit. This is consistent with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry’s recommendation of the **age one dental visit**.

#### Oral Health Anticipatory Guidance

Information related to oral health including, oral hygiene, nutrition, fluoride exposure, non-nutritive sucking, injury prevention and the importance of dental visits should be discussed with parents or caregivers.

### Oral Health Education and Training

Free online continuing medical education activities that teach practical oral health knowledge and skills are available at [www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org](http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org).

Additional online oral health training programs for physicians and other practice resources are available at [www.aap.org/oralhealth](http://www.aap.org/oralhealth), including an *EQIPP: Oral Health* course that provides 25 MOC Part 4 credits.

For in-office training opportunities contact JoAnn Wells, BSBS, RDH, at the Virginia Department of Health at **804-864-7782**, or at [joann.wells@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:joann.wells@vdh.virginia.gov).

To learn more about integrating oral health into your practice, or if you have any questions about oral health prevention services please contact Sarah Bedard Holland at **804-269-8721**, or at [sholland@vahealthcatalyst.org](mailto:sholland@vahealthcatalyst.org)

**ABOUT VIRGINIA HEALTH CATALYST:** Virginia Health Catalyst ([www.vahealthcatalyst.org](http://www.vahealthcatalyst.org)) is a statewide alliance of individuals and organizations working to bring excellent oral health to all Virginians through policy change, public awareness and new initiatives. Catalyst’s broad membership includes dental and medical professionals, educators, safety net clinics, community groups and charitable foundations, as well as advocates for children, veterans and older Virginians.

