

Silver Diamine Fluoride

A minimally invasive and cost-effective therapeutic and preventive agent for dental caries

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a safe, cost-effective, accessible, and minimally invasive technology to treat and prevent dental caries progression in the dental clinic. SDF, which the FDA approved in 2014, is proven to arrest, reverse, and even prevent the progression of occlusal, interproximal, and root surface dental caries in primary and permanent dentition. It is an appropriate treatment for people of all ages and abilities who prefer minimally invasive treatment for dental caries.

WHO CAN APPLY SDF?

In Virginia, SDF is not differentiated from other topical fluoride medicaments in its scope of practice guidelines. Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants are all permitted to place SDF. Once the dentist establishes the treatment plan, the dental team works together to identify the best application practice for their clinical workflows. In many instances, the dentist or dental hygienist directly applies SDF, with support from dental assistants in isolating the local area.

HOW DO I BILL FOR SDF?

Virginia's Medicaid program and most private insurers may reimburse for SDF applications. Medicaid will cover up to two applications per tooth per lifetime (primary and permanent). It is preferable to separate the first and second applications of D1354 and D1355 by at least 91 days.

CODE	DESCRIPTION	REIMBURSEMENT
D1354	Interim caries arresting medicament application – per tooth	\$12.00
D1355	Caries preventive medicament application – per tooth	\$12.00

HOW DOES SDF WORK?

The product most widely available on the market is 38% SDF, a colorless liquid comprised of silver particles and 38% (44,800 ppm) fluoride ion; at a pH of 10, it is 25% silver, 8% ammonia, 5% fluoride, and 62% water. Silver particles are antimicrobial to cariogenic bacteria and are retained in the local area where applied for ongoing antimicrobial activity. Fluoride ion remineralizes enamel and dentin, also having a desensitizing effect on tooth structure. Not only does SDF treat specific dental surfaces to arrest dental caries, but it also provides an anti-cariogenic spillover benefit to the adjacent teeth, lowering overall caries risk.



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT INTEGRATING SDF INTO MY PRACTICE?

- Virginia Health Catalyst – [SDF, oral health integration](#), and [other oral health resources](#)
- Elevate Oral Care – [SDF products](#)
- Association for State and Territorial Dental Directors – [SDF Fact Sheet](#)

Need a training? Contact [Brooke Crouch, RDH](#), from Elevate Oral Care, to schedule a lunch-and-learn event with CEs in your office to learn more about SDF and its application.

Thank you to Dr. Lyubov Slashcheva and Dr. Zachary Hairston for their contributions to this SDF one-pager.