



# 2024 Best Practices Dental Fluoride Varnish

## **Best and Promising Practices**

### **Partnership Tools and Programs**

- Dental fluoride varnish can be applied at a Well-Care Visit. Partnership offers a \$25 gift card incentive for completion of the Well-Care Visit for children aged 3-6 years who are overdue for a Well-Care Visit, through the **Healthy Kids Growing Together Program**.
- Attend or view Partnership's [Improving Measure Outcomes trainings](#) on *Preventative Care for 0-2 Year Olds* and *Preventative Care for 3-17 Year Olds* for more information about Dental Fluoride Varnish.
- Partnership members can access transportation for non-emergency medical services for assistance in traveling to and from appointments. Members can access services by calling [Partnership Transportation Services](#) at (866) 828-2303 Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. PST.

### **Member Care**

- All California counties have Local Oral Health Programs. Connect with the Local Oral Health Program in your county for **free** resources, training and materials to implement fluoride varnish services in your primary care practice.
- Through your Local Oral Health Program, train provider teams to provide health education on dental fluoride varnish, prepare and complete a fluoride varnish, and document and code completion of the fluoride varnish.
- Utilize “flag” alerts in the EMR / EHR system or pre-visit planning tools that each staff member can use to identify and communicate to members / caregivers who are due for their screening services at every member encounter.
- Use standing orders for internal staff to implement.
- Conduct chart scrubbing prior to the visit to determine if screening / preventive services are due.
- Stock exam rooms with pre-prepared fluoride varnish kits to streamline completion.
- Provide caregivers with health education on dental fluoride varnish and the importance of dental hygiene and regular dental visits. Health education materials can be found on Local Oral Health Program websites.
- If practice offers dental services, schedule the child's next dental visit during check-out, or as part of the rooming process.

- Provide caregivers with a list of pediatric dentists in their area who accept Medi-Cal Dental. Lists can be found on Local Oral Health Program websites.

### ***Equity Approaches:***

- Use the Well Child Visit to connect patients and caregivers with dental care. Provide caregivers with information that preventative dental care is a covered Medi-Cal Dental benefit for their child and an important part of their preventative care.
- Assess barriers to completing regular dental visits and plan interventions to address these barriers.
- Ensure member information is consistent, welcoming, plain and person-centered, language appropriate, and delivered in traditional and electronic applications, per patient's preference.
- Have a conversation with caregivers to confirm that information about dental fluoride varnish and dental care is mutually understood, caregivers agree with any plans made, and caregivers were given the opportunity to ask questions.

### **Data and Coding**

- Submit claims and encounter data within 90 days of service.
- Code fluoride varnish treatment as part of encounter/claims submission.

### **Helpful Links:**

#### **[2024 PCP QIP Technical Specifications](#)**

- Measure Description
- Exclusions
- PCP QIP Full Points, Partial Points, Relative Improvement Definitions
- Notes for eReports and PQD

#### **[QIP eReports Portal:](#)**

- 2024 Detailed PCP QIP Technical Specifications
- Measure Reports
- Diagnosis Code Crosswalk Report
- QIP Member Report