**Smiles for Life**

**State-Specific Fluoride Varnish Information**

**Massachusetts 2014**

**General Program Description**

On October 1, 2008, MassHealth (Massachusetts Medicaid) implemented a new oral health program designed for vulnerable children, adolescents and young adults. The program is specifically for MassHealth recipients from age 6 months to age 21, a population known to have an increased risk for dental caries. The program is designed to extend options for caries prevention to medical providers through the application of fluoride varnish which evidence shows is effective.

New codes have been added to the MassHealth fee schedule specifically for this program to enable physicians/group practices to bill for the application of fluoride varnish. Physicians, APRNs, physician’s assistants, RNs, LPNs and medical assistants who have received training are allowed to apply fluoride varnish.

**Training Requirements**

All providers wishing to bill for fluoride varnish application must receive state approved training. Current approved training options include:

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

Office based Lunch and Learn CME/CNE training funded by the DentaQuest Foundation. To schedule a training in your office, contact: Megan Mackin at Megan.Mackin@dentaquest.com

STFM Smiles for Life National Oral health Curriculum

Training is available on line at <http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org>

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

<http://www.aap.org> (registration is required)

On completion of approved training, a copy of the completion certificate should be kept on file in the medical practice.

**Coding and Reimbursement**

The following code must be used on all claims submissions:

D1206 ($26) Topical therapeutic fluoride varnish application for moderate to high caries risk patients.

Reimbursement includes the cost of all necessary supplies. Reimbursement is limited to children ages 6 months to 21 years. Varnish application is covered up to 4 times in a 12 month period, but Mass Health suggests 2 applications per year especially in younger children age 6 months to age 3.

**Required Documentation**

Documentation of the application of fluoride varnish is required in the medical record. Most EMRs offer screen shots for oral health. Written consent is not required.

**Claim Submission**

You must bill with CPT code D1206. Claims must be submitted using either the 837P electronic submission, or MassHealth claim form no. 5 or 9. Contact: Jane Willen,

MassHealth, Jane.Willen@state.ma.us, 617-348-5527

*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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