**Smiles for Life**

**State-Specific Fluoride Varnish Information**

**Connecticut 2014**

**General Program Description**

In 2009, Connecticut implemented a new infant oral health program called the ABC Program (Access for Baby Care to Dental Examinations and Fluoride Varnish). This program is designed specifically for children who may have an increased risk for developing dental decay (caries) and who are covered by the HUSKY Program.

Billing codes were added to the Medicaid fee schedule specifically for this program to enable physicians to bill for oral evaluation, counseling and application of fluoride varnish. Training is required before a medical practice can bill for services. Physicians, APRNs, PAs, NPs, RNs, LPNs and medical assistants (LPNs and MAs, under the supervision of a physician) who have received training are allowed to apply fluoride varnish, which can then be billed through the practice.

**Training Requirements**

All providers wishing to bill HUSKY/Medicaid for oral health counseling, oral health examination and fluoride varnish application must receive state approved training. At present training may be arranged through:

Connecticut Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics.

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

Office based Lunch and Learn CME/CNE training with assistance in workflow and billing procedures, utilizing the American Academy of Family Practice Smiles for Life curriculum. This program is funded by the DentaQuest Foundation. An on-line training is also available from the American Academy of Family Practice. To schedule a training in your office, contact: Jan Ruh at [janrruh@gmail.com](mailto:janrruh@gmail.com) or 860-977-9233

CT Train

Fluoride Varnish Application for Pediatric Medical Providers: Home by One.

An online webinar course accessed through <https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>

Educating Physicians in their Communities (EPIC) at the Connecticut Health and Development

Institute of Connecticut

EPIC arranges for one-hour lunch time didactic course on oral evaluation and fluoride varnish application. To schedule a training, contact: Maggie Morales [mamorales@uchc.edu](mailto:mamorales@uchc.edu)

At completion of the approved training you will be requested to complete a training record sheet, which will be submitted to the Department of Social Services on your behalf. After a period of 3 weeks you will be able to begin billing for services.

**Coding and Reimbursement**

The following codes must be used on all claims submissions:

D0145 ($25) Oral evaluation for a patient 6 months to 40 months of age and counseling with the primary caregiver.

D1206 ($20) Topical therapeutic fluoride varnish application for a patient 6 months to 40 months of age for moderate to high caries risk patients.

The oral evaluation may be billed beginning at six (6) months of age and at every well child care visit through 40 months of age (i.e. at 6, 9,12,15,18 and 36 month visits well child care visits)

Fluoride varnish may not be applied and billed for without initial completion of the oral evaluation. However, fluoride varnish may be applied at a subsequent visit but must be submitted on the same billing form as the original D0145 code with the separate dates of service appropriately indicated.

**Required Documentation**

The following documentation is required:

D0145

D120An oral evaluation, including assessment for early childhood decay, with documentation of noteworthy findings;

Preventive counseling including dietary recommendations and oral hygiene instructions; Prescribing systemic fluoride supplements if required

Assessment for the need of fluoride varnish

Referral to a dental provider (if necessary)

Application of fluoride varnish

**Claim Submission**

Claims may be submitted either electronically or by hard copy through EDS or through the

Medical Care Organization (MCO) that the provider is enrolled and credentialed in.

*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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