**Smiles for Life**

**State-Specific Fluoride Varnish Information**

**Maine 2014**

**General Program Description**

The purpose of From the First Tooth (FTFT) is to improve the oral health of Maine children by increasing children’s access to preventive oral health services. FTFT provides a model to integrate early oral health as the *standard of care* in medical practices for all children from birth through 47. FTFT includes: oral health screening and risk assessment, fluoride varnish application, parent/caregiver education and counseling, and referral to a dentist/dental home.

MaineCare (Medicaid) reimburses medical providers for the application of fluoride varnish (D1206) and an oral evaluation (D0145). In addition, a growing number of employers cover fluoride varnish under their medical plans, including: MaineHealth, EMHS, MaineGeneral Health, Maine Education Benefit Trust, Bath Iron Works, Mercy Hospital, Jackson Laboratories, Bowdoin College, LL Bean, Maine Municipal Employees Benefits Trust and MidCoast Hospital.

Physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners may apply fluoride varnish independently. Nurses and medical assistants may apply fluoride varnish under supervision.

**Training Requirements**

Training is recommended but is not required in order to bill MaineCare and the employers’ health plans that are covering fluoride varnish. From the First Tooth staff members train practices using the Smiles for Life curriculum and a clinical demonstration of the application of fluoride varnish. In addition, FTFT staff is available to the practice during implementation to assist in EHR integration, clinical work flow, and documentation and billing. From The First Tooth provides quality improvement support to the practices.

**Coding and Reimbursement**

Application of topical fluoride varnish (D1206) is covered for members under the age of 21 years who are at moderate to high risk for dental caries. MaineCare covers reimbursement to medical providers at $12 for fluoride varnish on the following schedule (a) Twice per calendar year for children under the age of 3 and (b) twice per calendar year with at least 150 days between applications for children ages 3 and older. For members with high caries rates or new restorations placed in the previous eighteen months, MaineCare will cover up to 3 fluoride varnish applications per calendar year.

Oral evaluation for a patient under 3 years of age and counseling with primary caregiver (D0145) is covered for members under the age of 3 who do not have a dental home. MaineCare will cover reimbursement to medical providers at $20 twice per calendar year.

**Required Documentation**

Documentation of fluoride varnish application (D1206) in the medical record is required. Written parental consent is not required.

Documentation for the Oral Evaluation (D0145) should comprise all of the following and must be documented in the patient’s record according to practice policy:

1. Question about the existence of a current dental home/dental provider
2. Risk screening questions based on oral health history (may be performed by clinical support staff)
3. Risk assessment of the mouth and teeth (must be performed by a licensed provider—MD, DO, NP, PA)
4. Oral health plan, including parent/patient education about establishing a dental home and referral to a dentist, when possible

**Claim Submission**

Claims for fluoride varnish and/or oral evaluation are submitted using the CMS/HCFA 1500 using the CPT code D1206 and D0145. Fluoride varnish is reimbursed at $12 per application and the oral evaluation is reimbursed at $20 per occurrence.

FQHC/RHC: Fluoride varnish and oral evaluation are currently included in their core visit fee and no additional compensation is made for services charged and billed to MaineCare. The CPT Code D1206 and/or D0145 need to be submitted.

**Contacts**

Kneka Smith, MPH

Director

From the First Tooth

MaineHealth

Telephone: 207-661-7560

[KPSmith@mainehealth.org](mailto:KPSmith@mainehealth.org)

[www.fromthefirsttooth.org](http://www.fromthefirsttooth.org)

Susan Cote, RDH, MS Program Manager

From the First Tooth

MaineHealth

Telephone: 207-662-6309 [cotes4@mainehealth.org](mailto:cotes4@mainehealth.org) [www.fromthefirsttooth.org](http://www.fromthefirsttooth.org/)