**General Program Description**

In Virginia, primary care providers (LPN, RN, NP, PA and MD) can be reimbursed through Medicaid for the application of fluoride varnish, twice per year, for a total of six applications from age six months until the child’s third birthday. The billing process is no different than billing for any medical service; the CPT code is 99188. Most commercial insurance plans reimburse for fluoride application, with the same CPT code, up to age five.

Frequency of application is approximately every six months and should be accompanied by age appropriate preventive services as outlined in the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care. At least a portion of an erupting tooth must be visible to apply and submit for Medicaid reimbursement for fluoride varnish. The procedure is not reimbursable on or after the child’s third birthday.

**Training Requirements**

There are no formal training requirements for providers outside of local health department settings to be able to bill for fluoride varnish application, but **it is highly recommended that practices receive training through one of the following programs:**

Smiles for Life National Oral Health Curriculum

Online training on oral health topics across the lifespan, including Early Childhood Caries (ECC) and Fluoride Varnish, is available free-of-charge at <http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org>.

The Smiles for Life Curriculum is recognized in Virginia as a comprehensive education resource and is endorsed by: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Dental Association, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the American Academy of Family Health Physicians, and many others.

Virginia Department of Health – Dental Health Program

The VDH Office of Family Health Services Dental Health Program offers, at no cost, the Bright Smiles for Babies (BSB) training program for medical providers. This training describes oral health care guidelines for infants and toddlers **under** **the age of three years.**  BSB is offered online or in-office and contains information on oral health risk assessment and screening, oral health anticipatory guidance, fluoride varnish application, oral health for pregnant women and individuals with special health care needs.  An implementation manual with resources designed to assist you in beginning and maintaining this program will be included as part of the course resources. Periodically, manual materials are updated and revised. Please visit our website: [www.VDHLiveWell.com/oralhealth](http://www.VDHLiveWell.com/oralhealth) to access updated information and forms.  Trainings are available at no cost. For information on in-person trainings, go to <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oral-health/contact-us/> or call (804) 864-7775.

**In local health department settings:**

PAs, FNPs, RNs, LPNs, under the immediate and direct supervision of an RN in a local health department, **must complete the Bright Smiles for Babies training**, either online or in-person, provided by the Virginia Department of Health, Dental Health Program. Fluoride Varnish can be applied a total of six applications from the age of six months up to the third birthday under a standing protocol issued by a Health District Director, i.e. a Physician, to the teeth of young children who receive home visits or who present to pediatric clinics, immunization clinics, WIC and other health district programs. Local Health District Directors signing the standing protocol are also encouraged to complete the Bright Smiles for Babies training.

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

Free online training is available at <http://www.aap.org> (registration is required).

**Coding and Reimbursement**

All plans reimburse providers using the codes below:

Procedure (CPT) Code: 99188

Diagnosis (ICD-10) Code: Z293: Encounter for prophylactic fluoride administration

Reimbursement Rate for Fluoride Varnish Application: $20.79

**Required Documentation**

Documentation of fluoride varnish application is required in the medical record.

**Contacts**

For Medicaid billing questions contact:

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For all other questions contact:

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