

Smiles for Life 2

State-Specific Fluoride Varnish Information

Massachusetts 2009

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.

A new code has been added to the MassHealth fee schedule specifically for this program to enable physicians to bill for application of fluoride varnish. No other third party reimbursement for this service is currently available. Physicians, APRNs, and physician's assistants who have received training are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for the services delivered. In Massachusetts, dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners may independently apply varnish. Training is also encouraged for other medical staff, such as nurses and medical assistants, who may, under the supervision of a trained physician, perform patient education and fluoride varnish application.

Training Requirements

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

1. STFM Smiles for Life National Oral health Curriculum

Training is available on line at www.smilesforlife2.org.

This training includes an online presentation, a video presentation and requires the completion of a post-test assessment to receive 2 CME credits.

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

This training includes an online presentation and requires the completion of a post-test to receive 1 CME credit. <http://www.aap.org/commpepd/doch/oralhealth/cme/>

3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Office of Oral Health Training

This in-person training is targeted to Massachusetts community health centers.

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Consumer&L2=Prevention+and+Wellness&L3=Disease+Prevention&L4=Oral+Health&sid=Eeohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=dph_com_health_c_pca_oralhealth_block_diseases&csid=Eeohhs2

On completion of approved training a proof of completion certificate should be downloaded from the MassHealth oral health web site at:

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Government&L2=Departments+and+Divisions&L3=MassHealth&L4=Information+for+MassHealth+Providers&sid=Eeohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=masshealth_provider_fluoride_varnish_training&csid=Eeohhs2

Providers may begin the application of fluoride varnish and submit claims immediately after securing this certificate.

Coding and Reimbursement

The following service code must be used on all claims submissions:

D1206 Topical therapeutic fluoride varnish application for moderate to high caries risk patients.

The fee for the procedure is \$26.00 per application, and includes all materials and supplies needed for the application.

Fee-for-service medical providers can bill for an office visit and the application of fluoride varnish when the procedure is provided during a visit. When the sole purpose of the visit is for the application of fluoride varnish, the medical provider may bill only for the fluoride varnish.

Reimbursement is limited to children ages 6 months to 21 years. Varnish applications are most effective if done two to four times per year, and can be coordinated with other well-child visits or immunizations.

Required Documentation

Documentation of the application of fluoride varnish is required. Written consent is not required.

Claim Submission

You must bill the procedure using CDT code D1206. Claims must be submitted using either the 837P electronic submission, or MassHealth claim form no. 5 or 9.

Contact

MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 with any billing issues.