



July 17, 2018

Dear Provider,

Fluoride varnish is a form of topical fluoride that is more effective in preventing tooth decay than other forms of topical fluoride, and more practical and safer to use with young children. Fluoride varnish, used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, is safe for infants and young children, and the application is fast and easily performed. As part of a CHDP Health Assessment, a CHDP provider is required to conduct an oral exam, which may include a fluoride varnish application. Fluoride varnish can be painted directly onto the teeth in less than 3 minutes and sets within one minute of contact with saliva. The application requires no special dental equipment and can be applied with minimal training by physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and supervised medical assistants.

Kern Health Systems (KHS) reimburses providers for the topical fluoride varnish application as a Medi-Cal benefit. Providers are to bill this service with CPT-4 code of 99188 on a CMS 1500 claim form or electronically. Previously, HCPC code D1206 was used to reimburse providers for fluoride varnish. Effective 8/1/2018, HCPC code D1206 will be denied. The fluoride varnish application is not a benefit of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program.

Fluoride varnish training information is available to network providers and their staff through the KHS website. Instructions include:

1. How to obtain Fluoride Varnish supplies
2. Fluoride varnish application and periodic dental assessments
3. Parental anticipatory guidance
4. Referring children to a dentist for a dental examination and care at one year of age per CHDP guidelines
5. Coordination of member care with dental professionals

Once the 45 minute training is completed, CHDP will provide some initial start-up materials to the provider and issue a certificate of completion.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lopez

Melissa Lopez
Provider Relations Manager
Kern Health Systems