



April 20, 2017

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 HCPC code D1206 on a CMS 1500 claim form or electronically. The fluoride varnish application is not a benefit of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program. If a fluoride varnish is applied during a CHDP visit, providers should submit the CHDP visit using the PM 160 as informational only and bill KHS for the CHDP visit and fluoride varnish on the CMS 1500 form or electronically. If a fluoride varnish is applied during a non-CHDP visit, providers should submit a CMS 1500 for the claim encounter including the office visit and the fluoride varnish as services.

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

For more information on topical fluoride varnish applications and reimbursements, please contact the CHDP at (661) 868-1201.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lopez

Melissa Lopez
Provider Relations Manager
Kern Health Systems