



Fluoride Varnish Training Tool

Fidelis Care encourages Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) who service the pediatric population and care for children between the ages of zero to five years to apply fluoride varnish to children's teeth. Note that this practice is in conjunction with a risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, and a referral to a pediatric dentist.

As of **January 1, 2024**, the application of fluoride varnish by a PCP is reimbursed, in addition to the office visit, when:

- Fluoride varnish is applied by any trained medical staff. The physician must be trained and submit attestation that all staff providing the service have been suitably trained and will also be supervised. The training curriculum can be completed by one provider per practice if they agree to instruct their staff.
- Fluoride varnish application will be combined with a risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, and a referral to a dentist that treats children under the age of six and will be linked to the well child visits for children through the age of five.

[NJFC Directory of Dentist Treating Children under the Age of 6](#)

When billing for a fluoride varnish application procedure, be sure to use **CPT® code**:

- 99188 - Application of topical fluoride varnish by a physician or other qualified health care professional.

Diagnosis Code(s):

- Z00.129 - Routine child health examination (well-child visit).
- Z41.8 - Encounter for other procedures other than remedying health state.

This service can be provided up to four (4) times a year for children at moderate or high-risk, based on medical necessity. This frequency does not affect the frequency of this service completed by the dentist.

Important: By the age of 12 months or shortly after the eruption of the first primary tooth, all PCPs must provide a bidirectional referral to a dentist for an appointment. The program requires that a referral to the dentist must be made in both directions, with documentation kept in their medical file. Primary Care Providers and Primary Care Dentists must communicate with one another as part of the referral process. Bi-directional forms for dental referrals are available on the Fidelis Care website: [Bi-directional forms \(PDF\)](#).

Below is a link to a **Smiles for Life** training course: “Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish and Counseling.” This course focuses on early childhood caries and prevention. It includes information on the benefits, safety precautions, and dosing for fluoride as a comprehensive approach to a child's oral health.

- Smiles For Life is a National Oral Health Curriculum Educational Training Tool for our participating PCPs.
- Smiles for Life National Oral Health Curriculum - Fluoride Varnish Module
- [Smiles for Life - Fluoride Varnish Training Tool](#)
 - After completing the training curriculum, please include a list of any other providers in your office that you trained.

The provider must sign and fax and/or email the [Fluoride Varnish Application Attestation Form](#) to EmailNJ DentalService@fideliscarenj.com or Fax: **813-865-6759**.

Hands-on training can be scheduled by contacting the Program Director for Oral Health from the NJ Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics at **609-631-5738**.

If you need assistance referring a member to the dentist, please contact the Dental Vendor Management Analyst at **973-274-2158**.