

Age limit change for children's fluoride varnish application for nondental providers

Effective July 1, 2020, Amerigroup Community Care reimburses providers for the application of fluoride varnish on children's teeth ages birth through 3 years. Fluoride varnish is typically applied as part of an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) well-child visit.

Why is this change necessary?

Fluoride varnish may be provided by physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who have received training for this service. The children's fluoride varnish program requires providers to perform all of the following services in order to be reimbursed:

- Dental risk assessment and anticipatory guidance
- Fluoride varnish application
- Dental referral

Please note: PCP fluoride varnish application does not constitute a dental visit. The PCP fluoride varnish program requires referral to a dentist for a complete oral evaluation, including appropriate diagnostic and preventive services. In order to count toward EPSDT dental requirements, an actual dental visit must occur. Also, children should have their first dental visit around the time of their first tooth eruption and no later than age 1.

How can I receive training for this program?

A one-time training activity is all that is required! The fluoride varnish training module is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatricians, which refers providers to Smiles for Life, a national oral health curriculum website:

<https://new.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/caries-risk-assessment-fluoride-varnish-and-counseling>.

After completing courses, you will be able to print your certificate. Please email your certificate, full provider name and NPI to Amerigroup at nj1providerdataspeci@amerigroup.com or fax it to **1-866-920-5997**.

If you are unable to email or fax, please contact Provider Services at **1-800-454-3730** for assistance.

How often is this service covered?

The fluoride varnish service can be provided up to four times a year and does not affect the frequency of fluoride services conducted by a dentist.

How will fluoride varnish be reimbursed?

Fluoride varnish, including a dental risk assessment, the application and a dental referral, will be reimbursed as an all-inclusive service billed using the new **CPT® code 99188** and **ICD-10-CM diagnosis code Z41.8**. Capitated providers will be reimbursed for this service as a bill-above.

Are there additional resources on fluoride varnish?

Visit our provider website at <https://providers.amerigroup.com/NJ> and select **New Jersey Smiles Dental Program** under the *Provider Resources & Documents* section to find the following risk assessment tools and information:

- *The American Academy of Pediatrics Risk Assessment Tool*
- *Caries Risk Assessment form (Birth-Age6) - The American Dental Association Risk Assessment Tool*
- *Guideline on Caries – Risk Assessment and Management*
- *New Jersey Smiles Directory* (a list of dentists who treat children under age 6)

What if I need office-based fluoride varnish training?

You can contact the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics by calling **1-609-842-0014** to make arrangements.

What if I would like additional training on preventive oral health?

Sign up for office-based training today by contacting Juliana David, Program Director Oral Health at the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, by phone at **1-609-842-0014** or email at JDavid@njaap.org.

What if I need further assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, received it in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **1-800-454-3730**.