

Medicaid Policy and Billing Guidance

Non-Dental Practitioner Application of Fluoride Varnish in a Primary Care Setting

This is a reminder that fluoride varnish is currently reimbursable to physicians and nurse practitioners with Common Procedural Technology (CPT) code “**99188**”. A maximum of four (4) annual fluoride varnish applications will be covered for children from birth until seven years of age.

Effective August 1, 2020 for fee-for-service (FFS) and October 1, 2020 for Medicaid Managed Care (MMC), fluoride varnish can be applied by multiple primary provider types including Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants, based on scope of practice, to optimize treatment. This policy applies to mainstream MMC plans and HIV Special Needs Plans (HIV SNPs).

The primary care setting is the ideal location to address Early Childhood Caries (ECC), the most preventable, chronic, childhood disease, since young children tend to see their primary care providers far more often than dentists.

- Providers should be trained and competent in fluoride varnish application.
- Training resources can be accessed through the New York State Department of Health’s website at: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/dental/child_oral_health_fluoride_varnish_for_hcp.htm.

Questions

- Questions regarding Medicaid FFS policy should be directed to the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP), Division of Program Development and Management, at (518) 473-2160 or dentalpolicy@health.ny.gov.
- Questions regarding MMC reimbursement and/or documentation requirements should be directed to the enrollee’s MMC plan.