



Policy and Procedure

Policy Name:	Dental/Oral Health Assessment, Fluoride Supplementation, and Fluoride Varnish		
Effective Date:		Revision Date:	
Department(s)/Site(s):			
Document Owners:			
Approved By:			
Relevant Law/Standard:	California Department of Health Care Services under Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 53230. (Requires the review and certification of Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) sites.) Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All Plan Letter 20-006, Site Reviews: Facility Site Review and Medical Record Review or any superseding APL		

Purpose:

The provider is responsible for ensuring that dental screening/oral health assessment for all members are included as part of the initial health assessment (IHA) and at each subsequent pediatric health assessment visit. This multi-part assessment may include a physical examination, application of fluoride varnish, prescription of fluoride supplementation, and referral to a dental home.

Definition:

Dental Home: The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) supports the concept of a dental home for all infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs. The AAPD encourages parents and other care providers to help every child establish a dental home. Every child should have a dental home established by 12 months of age.

Fluoride Varnish is a dental treatment that can help prevent tooth decay, slow it down, or stop it from getting worse. Fluoride varnish is made with fluoride, a mineral that can strengthen tooth enamel (outer coating on teeth). Once teeth are present, fluoride varnish may be applied to all children every 3-6 months in the primary care or dental office.

Community water fluoridation is the process of adjusting the fluoride content of fluoride-deficient water to the recommended level for optimal dental health, which is currently recommended at 0.7 parts fluoride per million parts water ([Source](#)).

Policy:

Dental assessment is to be performed at every pediatric health assessment visit. This multi-part assessment may include a physical examination, application of fluoride varnish, prescription of fluoride supplementation, and referral to a dental home.

Procedure:

1. Inspection of the mouth, teeth and gums is performed at every health assessment visit.
 - a. Documentation of "HEENT" is acceptable. Once teeth are present, fluoride varnish may be applied to all children every 3-6 months in the primary care or dental office.

- b. Children are referred to a dentist at any age if a dental problem is detected or suspected. Beginning at 3 years of age, all children are referred annually to a dentist regardless of whether a dental problem is detected or suspected.
2. Fluoride supplements may be prescribed for children ages 6 months to 5 years who are at high risk for tooth decay and whose primary drinking water has a low fluoride concentration.
 - a. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) should be encouraged to check with local water utility agency to verify that their tap water has fluoride.
 - b. If local water does not contain fluoride, provider may recommend the purchase of fluoridated water or give prescription for fluoride drops or tablets.
3. Fluoride varnish may be applied to the teeth of infants and children starting at tooth eruption until their fifth-year birthdate.
 - a. All children in this category should receive fluoride varnish application at least once every 3-6 months in the primary care or dental office.
4. If fluoride varnish is applied at dentist office, provider must document that in the medical record since not all dentists routinely apply fluoride varnish during routine dental visits

First Name Last Name – Title

Date

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Date

Resources

- Caries-risk Assessment and Management for Infants, Children, and Adolescents
https://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/BP_CariesRiskAssessment.pdf
- AAP guidance on Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/3/626>
- AAP Oral Health Practice Tools
<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/oral-health/oral-health-practice-tools/>.
- My Water’s Fluoride
https://nccd.cdc.gov/doh_mwf/default/default.aspx
- Maintaining and Improving the Oral Health of Young Children
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/6/1224>.
- USPSTF guidance on Dental Caries in Children Younger Than 5 Years
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/prevention-of-dental-caries-in-children-younger-than-age-5-years-screening-and-interventions1>
- Guidance on Fluoride Supplementation
<https://publichealth.nc.gov/oralhealth/library/includes/IMBresources/2020-FluorideSupplementation.pdf#:~:text=Pediatric%20Dentistry%20%28AAPD%29%20recommend%20the%20daily%20administration%20of%20years%20of%20age%20to%20provide%20the%20maximum%20benefits>

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