

Topical fluoride varnish application by a PMP

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that primary medical providers (PMP) apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children under age 5 to prevent dental caries.¹

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides guidance on applying fluoride in your office during well-child checks:

Oral Health Practice Tools

For Indiana Medicaid (Indiana Health Coverage Programs/IHCP), physician-administered topical fluoride varnish is a preventive procedure.² Coverage is limited to members from the time of first tooth eruption until the age of 4. Topical fluoride can include varnish, gel, or foam. Coverage requires the service be provided by or under the supervision of a physician. The IHCP recognizes the following provider types as eligible to render the service:

- Physicians
- Physician assistants
- Advanced practice nurses

Before performing and billing for this service, eligible providers are required to complete a certified training course available at aap.org:

Medicaid Payment of Preventive Oral Health Services

Physician-administered topical fluoride varnish should be billed using Current Procedural Terminology code 99188 – Application of topical fluoride varnish by a physician or other qualified health care professional.

¹ Highlights from the Advancing Oral Health Prevention in Primary Care Affinity Group

² IHCP bulletin BT201686