

Fluoride Varnish Application Training

A one hour training session can be provided, free of charge, for primary care providers and staff. Conducted by a dental hygienist/nurse practitioner team, the training will provide instruction in:

- Conducting an oral health screening
- Educating parents or caregivers about oral health
- Applying fluoride varnish
- Referring children to a dentist

To arrange training for you and your staff, please contact:



**The Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Oral Health Services**

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Smiles for Ohio

Fluoride Varnish Program



**Developed by
The Ohio
Department of Health**

Smiles for Ohio
Fluoride Varnish Program



*Primary Care Providers Promoting
the Oral Health of Young Ohioans*

Why primary care providers?

- In 2003, only 3 percent of Ohio Medicaid-eligible children under three years of age received any dental services through Medicaid. However, 78 percent received medical services. Since primary care providers are more likely to see these children, they have a unique opportunity to provide fluoride varnish before early caries occurs.



Who receives fluoride varnish?

- Although any child can receive fluoride varnish, Smiles for Ohio is directed at children covered by Medicaid from the time of tooth eruption until the 3rd birthday.

How long does it take?

- About one to three minutes, depending on the child's age and ability to cooperate.



Why do an oral health assessment and apply fluoride varnish?

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. Cavities in baby teeth can cause pain and affect a child's ability to eat, speak, sleep and learn properly. Fluoride varnish is a topical fluoride that is painted on the teeth to help stop cavities that have already started and prevent new cavities from forming. Small amounts of fluoride are applied and the varnish sets immediately upon contact with saliva. The flavored compound is well tolerated by infants and toddlers and can result in 25 percent to 45 percent reduction in tooth decay with regular application.

How will I be reimbursed?

- Submit claims for fluoride varnish application for Medicaid patients under age 3 years using CDT code D1203.
- Coverage is limited to one application every 180 days.
- This service is billable in addition to a well- or sick- child visit, but should not be the sole reason for the visit.



Lap positioning with parent assistance makes it easy to apply fluoride varnish.