



## Aetna Better Health® of Louisiana

### Fluoride Varnish Application by Primary Care Providers

Dental caries disease is preventable, yet it is the most common chronic childhood disease in the U.S. (Clark et al., 2020). Fluoride varnish application for the prevention of dental caries in children is the standard of care in pediatric primary care practice (Clark et al., 2020). Guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (Clark et al., 2020) and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF, 2021) recommend that primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.

#### Who Can Apply Fluoride Varnish?

Fluoride varnish can be applied in the PCP office by the Primary Care Physician, Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse (RN or LPN), or Certified Medical Assistant.

Once completing the Louisiana Department of Health’s “Smiles for Life” fluoride varnish application training and successfully passing the post assessment, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants are eligible for reimbursement. Physicians are also responsible for training additional staff in the office who will participate in the application.

#### Reimbursement

- **CPT Code: 99188** - Application of Topical Fluoride Varnish is only reimbursable when it is applied on the same date of scheduled doctor’s appointment and listed as an office visit.
- **ICDM-10 Code: Z41.8** - Need for Fluoride Varnish Application
- Fluoride varnish application is limited to recipients from ages 6 months through 5 years.
- Fluoride varnish application services are limited to once every 6 months and should be billed 6 months and 1 day apart.
- Appropriate providers must review the “**Course No. 6 — Smiles for Life Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, and Counseling Module**” and successfully pass the post assessment: [www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org](http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org)

#### Questions?

If you have general questions about this communication, please contact our Provider Relations Department:

By Phone: **1-855-242-0802** By Fax: **860-607-7658**