



Varnish! Michigan- Babies Too! Program 2012-2013

Rationale:

- Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood. The pain, suffering and costs of treating primary teeth for dental decay is preventable.
- By performing a caries risk assessment, anticipatory guidance and applying fluoride varnish as soon as the primary teeth erupt much of the Early Childhood Caries process can be prevented.
- Since very young children see their primary medical providers often during the first two years of life it would seem appropriate for the initial caries risk assessment, anticipatory guidance and fluoride application be performed at these visits.
- Medicaid is reimbursing medical providers for applying fluoride varnish to their 0-2 (up to age 3) children as part of EPSDT exam visits. Physicians and nurse practitioners can be reimbursed directly with other licensed health professionals able to apply the varnish under physician direction.
- Up to 4 applications of fluoride varnish will be allowed in a 12 month period.
- The Michigan Department of Community Health will supply free fluoride varnish to Medicaid medical providers for their Medicaid recipients for the period of October 1, 2012 -September 30, 2013.

Objectives:

- To encourage Medicaid medical providers to incorporate oral screenings and apply fluoride varnish to infant and toddler teeth at well baby, EPSDT exams.
- This is in conjunction with the oral screening, risk assessment and anticipatory guidance that is performed in reference to the Periodicity Schedule.
- Referral to a dental home by age 1 is indicated especially for the children in the high or moderate risk category.
- Free fluoride varnish is to be supplied through MDCH for the period October 1, 2012- September 30, 2013 as long as supply lasts.
- An online or onsite training is required to be able to bill Medicaid and receive free varnish: [On-Line Oral Health Training for Medical Providers](#)
- Medicaid medical providers receiving the free fluoride varnish will be required to collect certain oral screening data on each child fluoride varnish is applied on. This data will be for use by MDCH for the enhancement of future programs in Michigan. **Additional screening collection training is required.**

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