



Varnish! Michigan: Babies Too!

2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT

Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program Goals



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program was developed to increase the number of medical providers that have oral health training and have oral health programs in their practices.

The ultimate goal of the program is to prevent Early Childhood Caries (ECC) through oral health screening, preventive fluoride varnish application by medical providers on babies and toddlers currently not visiting a dental home and to encourage early referral to a dentist by age one.

Since the implementation of this program in 2010, the MDHHS Oral Health Program (OHP), has been able to encourage more medical providers to consider oral health as an integral part of overall health of the patient. They are now more inclined to provide oral screenings, provide a caries risk assessment, apply fluoride varnish, offer anticipatory guidance to parents on oral health care, and refer to a dental home by the age of one.

Smiles for Life

A national oral health curriculum



Training

- For the Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program, medical providers, including physicians, and all staff who are delegated to provide oral health services, must complete the **Smiles for Life Course 6: Fluoride Varnish module**, which is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- After each staff member within an agency or office has completed the Smiles for Life training, additional training to participate in the Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program is provided by a representative from the MDHHS OHP.
- This training provides all staff involved in the Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program with information specific to program policies and procedures. This training is offered on-site or via webcast.

2019 VARNISH! MICHIGAN- BABIES TOO! PROGRAM

Training for Medical Professionals in
Infant/Young Child Oral Health and
Babies Too! Program Requirements

Reimbursement



- For FY2017-18, and as of January 1, 2018, changes to Medicaid have allowed medical providers to bill Medicaid for two oral screenings a year and up to four fluoride varnish applications on a child through age 5 in a 12 month period.
- The FY 2017-18 reimbursement rate from Medicaid Fee-for-Service for an oral screening by a medical provider was \$14.89 and an average of \$6.33 per varnish application.
- Some Medicaid Health Plans and other insurance carriers may reimburse at different rates. Some insurance carriers, other than Medicaid, may not reimburse separately for an oral screening to medical providers.



Free Fluoride Varnish

- The provision of free fluoride varnish was to encourage medical providers to incorporate oral screenings, anticipatory guidance, and fluoride varnish applications as part of the EPSDT (Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) checks and to connect families to a dental home.
- Upon completion of the Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! training, a signed Memorandum of Agreement, and a signed Directive if indicated, providers receive an agreed upon starting amount of free fluoride varnish and education brochures to give to parents.
- In exchange for the free fluoride varnish, agencies must have returned the required Quarterly Report forms with the collected screening data before more varnish was issued.
- Free varnish will be dispensed for a period up to three years, with no more than 200 applications given in a quarter period, based on the numbers received from the required submitted quarterly report.

Data Collection for 2017-18

The following are the results of the data collected from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018:

57 agencies participated in FY 2017-18

- 12,707 children were screened (Up from 8585 in FY 2016-17; a 48 percent increase)
- 11,525 varnish applications (Up from 7700 in FY 2016-17; a 50 percent increase)
- 11 percent of all children screened had signs of early childhood caries
- 6 percent of all children screened had white spot lesions
- 4 percent of all children screened had untreated, active decay
- 2 percent of all children screened had previous caries treatment
- 18 percent of the children screened were referred for dental care



**For FY 17-18, the data collected were not indicative of the state as a whole and only represent those agencies volunteering to collect data as part of the Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program.

Lessons Learned

- Instead of individual screening forms, each agency was asked to track the required data as deems most appropriate for them, (excel file, electronic record, etc.), then only submit quarterly reports.
- Entry of just quarter reports has significantly reduced the amount of time needed for data entry.
- Due to high demand, the amount of free varnish will be limited and the time period allowed for distribution will be three years.



Lessons Learned



For more information on the Smiles for Life certification process and the Varnish! Michigan Babies Too! Program contact:

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