



# NETWORK *Notification*

**Notice Date:** February 6, 2025  
**To:** Indiana Medicaid Providers  
**From:** CareSource  
**Subject:** Fluoride Varnish Application

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## Summary

CareSource understands that both Dentists and Pediatricians can work in tandem to play an important role in improving children's oral health outcomes. Access issues may prevent many children from visiting a dentist or returning to the dentist for multiple visits for fluoride application. Clinicians well trained and knowledgeable about oral health can discover problems, emphasize cavity prevention, and make referrals that may even save a life. Fluoride Varnish application provides one opportunity for a pediatric office to make a positive oral health impact for a child.

**Fluoride Varnish coverage for Hoosier Healthwise, HIP Plans:**

- **Dental code D1206** Topical Application of Fluoride Varnish Ages 0-20 (Enhanced Benefit 21+)
- **Medical code 99188** Fluoride varnish by Medical Providers Ages 0-4

**What is Fluoride Varnish?** Fluoride Varnish is one of several topical fluoride treatments that can be used to prevent tooth decay. It can repair and strengthen teeth, reduce the risk of cavities by 30-35% and reverse early cavities.

**Where can Fluoride Varnish be placed?**

Fluoride Varnish may be placed in a medical or dental office.

**Who can place Fluoride Varnish?**

Medical Coverage requires the service be provided by or under the supervision of a physician. The Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) recognizes the following provider types as eligible to render the service:

- Physicians
- Physician assistants
- Advanced practice registered nurses

Before performing and billing for this service, eligible medical providers are required to complete a certified training course.

Fluoride Varnish may be placed by an appropriately trained and certified Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist, or Dentist.

**How is Fluoride Varnish Placed? (<2 min)**

1. Wash hands and use clean gloves
2. Knee-to-knee with caregiver is recommended with child's head in provider's lap. Caregiver provides support for arms and legs.
3. Gauze square dries saliva. Single-dose pack with applicator open. Mouth open.
4. Paint front and back of all teeth and biting surface of molars by quadrant. Most varnishes have yellow tint to allow for seeing where work is completed. Thin coat used. Not all varnish will be used.
5. Instructions: Child can eat right away. Avoid hot and sticky foods and do not brush or floss for 24 hours.
6. Yellow tint will go away with brushing.
7. Refer to Dental Home for Comprehensive Dental Evaluation.

**Why place Fluoride Varnish?**

**Topical Fluoride is used to decrease the incidence of Dental Caries.**

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**OMPP Approved: 02/03/2025**