Fluoride Treatment by a Primary Care Provider

Lines of Business	*Document Type*
Commercial, Medicaid	Policy
Who This Applies To	***States***
Health Services	Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Commercial and Medicaid Policy

PacificSource is committed to assessing and applying current regulatory standards, widely-used treatment guidelines, and evidenced-based clinical literature when developing clinical criteria for coverage determination. Each policy contains a list of sources (references) that serves as the summary of evidence used in the development and adoption of the criteria. The evidence was considered to ensure the criteria provide clinical benefits that promote patient safety and/or access to appropriate care. Each clinical policy is reviewed, updated as needed, and readopted, at least annually, to reflect changes in regulation, new evidence, and advancements in healthcare.

Clinical Guidelines are written when necessary to provide guidance to providers and members in order to outline and clarify coverage criteria in accordance with the terms of the Member's policy. This Clinical Guideline only applies to PacificSource Health Plans and PacificSource Community Solutions in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Because of the changing nature of medicine, this list is subject to revision and update without notice. This document is designed for informational purposes only and is not an authorization or contract. Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Member's policy. Member policies differ in benefits and to the extent a conflict exists between the Clinical Guideline and the Member's policy, the Member's policy language shall control. Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice nor guarantee coverage.

Background

Fluoride varnish is a type of topical fluoride that acts to retard, arrest, and reverse the caries process and is applied to all surfaces of the teeth. The teeth then absorb the fluoride varnish, strengthening the enamel and helping prevent cavities. Application of fluoride varnish and the delivery of other oral health services, by primary care providers, during visits is strongly encouraged by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The periodicity of these services is detailed in the Bright Futures periodicity schedule. Further, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force maintains the practice of primary care providers applying fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary teeth eruption as a Grade B Recommendation.

Under Section 2713 of the ACA, private health plans must provide coverage for a range of preventive services and may not impose cost-sharing (such as copayments, deductibles, or co-insurance) on patients receiving these services.

To guide primary care providers with assessment of the necessity of fluoride varnish, assessment of oral health status, and the delivery of other oral health services the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has developed a risk assessment tool to aid in the implementation of oral health risk assessment and fluoride varnish during health supervision visits. This tool has been subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health. Additionally, the types of oral health

services primary care providers should deliver, and their recommended periodicity are detailed in the AAP's Bright Futures periodicity schedule.

Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule:
https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf?_ga=2.204154128.1601096213.1670000698-1343647229.1666643537

Coverage

Commercial

Once teeth are present (approximately 6 months up to 6 years of age), fluoride varnish should be applied to all children at a minimum of every 6 months and up to every 3 months, depending on oral health risk indications, in the primary care office.

The oral health assessment and education components should include:

- Caries risk assessment and identifying dental disease with documentation of these findings using caries risk codes D0601-D0603
- Educating care givers/parents on the care and cleaning of the teeth and mouth
- Educating care givers/parents on how to prevent dental and gum disease
- Offering anticipatory guidance on obtaining periodic dental care from dental providers
- Initiating a referral to a dentist as indicated
- Prescribing fluoride supplements as indicated
- Applying fluoride varnish as indicated

99188 Application of topical fluoride varnish by a physician or other qualified health care professional

- This code was approved to begin January 1, 2015. It only includes varnish application, not risk assessment, education, or referral to a dentist.
- A maximum of four applications in a twelve-month period through age five is allowed.

D0191 Oral health assessment is covered for children aged 6 and under once per year.

D0601 – D0603 caries risk assessment codes are used to document caries risk assessment findings of low, medium, or high risk.

Medicaid

PacificSource Community Solutions follows Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 410-123-1260, 410-123-1510, 410-151-0001, 410-151-0002, 410-151-0004, and Guideline Notes 17 and 122 of the OHP Prioritized List of Health Services for coverage of Fluoride Treatment by a Primary Care Provider.

Physicians should deliver oral health services in accordance with EPSDT requirements as well as the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) Periodicity Schedule and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule.

AAPD Periodicity Schedule

AAP Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule.

Coding Information

The following list of codes are for informational purposes only and may not be all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

99188 Application of topical fluoride varnish by a physician or other qualified health care professional

99429 Unlisted preventive medicine service

99499 Unlisted evaluation and management service

D0190 Oral health assessment of a patient

D0191 Oral health assessment of patient

D0601 Caries risk assessment using recognized assessment tool, with a finding of low risk

D0602 Caries risk assessment using recognized assessment tool, with a finding of moderate risk

D0603 Caries risk assessment using recognized assessment tool, with a finding of high risk

D1206 Topical application of fluoride varnish

D1208 Topical application of fluoride

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HCPCS® codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

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Appendix A. Document Control – *to update appendix fields, go to Properties Wizard*

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Applicable regulation(s):

- OAR 410-123-1260 Coverage, Limitations, Exclusions
- OAR 410-123-1510 Additional Dental Benefits for Pregnant and Postpartum Members
- OAR 410-151-0001 Definitions
- OAR 410-151-0002 Coverage Requirements
- OAR 410-151-0004 Screening Exams

Policy Function: Posted to PacificSource.com - Clinical Policy

External entities affected: N/A

LOBO Committee Review completed: Committee Approval Date: 09/17/2026