

HEDIS Provider Guide: Topical Fluoride for Children (TFL-CH)

Measure Description	Using Correct Billing Codes								
The percentage of children ages 1 to 20 who received at least two (2) topical fluoride applications on two (2) different dates of service during the measurement year. Topical fluoride varnish can be applied in the primary care physician's (PCP's) office, or a dental provider's office. Note: No more than one fluoride application can be counted for the same member on the same date of service.	Codes to Identify Topical Fluoride Application for Children <table> <tr> <th>Description</th><th>Codes</th></tr> <tr> <td>Application of Fluoride Varnish</td><td> CPT Code: 99188 CDT Code: D1206 </td></tr> </table> For federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs) ONLY - (code below can be mapped to CPT 99188) <table> <tr> <th>Description</th><th>Code</th></tr> <tr> <td>Encounter for prophylactic fluoride administration</td><td>ICD-10 Code: Z29.3</td></tr> </table>	Description	Codes	Application of Fluoride Varnish	CPT Code: 99188 CDT Code: D1206	Description	Code	Encounter for prophylactic fluoride administration	ICD-10 Code: Z29.3
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How to Improve HEDIS® Scores

- Apply fluoride varnish at least once every six months, and preferably every four months, starting at tooth eruption.
- Review the online information available for [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Provider guide on Oral health for infants and toddlers](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/OralHealth.aspx) at www.cdph.ca.gov
- Perform oral health risk assessments on all children at every well-visit starting at 6 months of age.
- Ensure that medical records include the date the topical fluoride application was given and that the fluoride varnish application is coded appropriately in your claim/encounter submission.
- The recommended use of fluoridated toothpaste is a grain of rice sized amount for children younger than 3 years of age. A pea-sized amount is appropriate for most children starting at 3 years of age.
- PCPs can play a key role in helping children's teeth to stay healthy. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that PCPs apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.
- Ensure your data systems are configured for this measure and can ingest the CPT and CDT codes above.
- Fluoride varnish can be applied by a physician or other qualified health care professional, or a clinic staff member working under the supervision of a qualified health care professional.
- Encourage your patients to establish a dental home. If they need help finding a dentist or have questions about dental services, they can call Medi-Cal Dental at (800) 322-6384 (TTY 1-800-735-2922 or 711) or go to the Medi-Cal Dental website at <https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/>.