



Clinical Medical Policy Fluoride Varnish

Benefit Coverage:

Neighborhood covers the application of fluoride varnish twice a year for children up to age four (4) in the PCP's office. The applications should start at the time of the eruption of first teeth, about age six (6) months. No prior authorization is necessary.

It is recommended that very-high risk children should receive fluoride varnish treatments up to four (4) times a year. This will be covered with documentation of very high-risk status. Prior authorization is necessary for than two (2) treatments of fluoride varnish per year.

Description:

Fluoride varnish is applied to teeth enamel. Studies have shown a high fluoride uptake in the enamel and a considerable caries reduction following the application of varnish containing fluoride.

Coverage Determination:

Neighborhood's coverage of fluoride varnish is secondary to dental care that is otherwise covered, specifically the RITeSmiles program. Children born after May 1, 2000 should be eligible for the RITeSmiles program.

Criteria:

The following criteria are utilized to identify those children up to age four (4), who may receive up to two (2) additional fluoride varnish treatments in one year (for a total of 4 per year.) At least one criterion must be met:

- 1) Any primary or secondary carious lesion during the last 3 years;
- 2) Presence of multiple factors that may increase caries risk;*
- 3) Low socioeconomic status;
- 4) Xerostomia (dry mouth).

*Increased risk of caries may be secondary to poor oral hygiene, prolonged nursing or breast-feeding, poor family dental health, enamel defects, genetic abnormality of teeth, many multisurface restorations, chemo- or radiation therapy, eating disorders, cariogenic diet, exposed root surfaces, physical or mental disability that impacts ability to care for teeth.

Exclusions:

CMP Number: CMP-042

CMP Cross Reference:

References:



Clinical Medical Policy Fluoride Varnish

Fluoride Varnish: an Evidence-based Approach, Association of State and territorial Dental Directors Fluorides Committee, Sept., 2007.

Application of Fluoride Varnish by Qualified Health Professionals, Official Website of the Office of Health and Human Services, Sept., 2008.

Cantrell, Chris, The Role of the Physician in Oral Health, State Health Policy Monitor, Dec. 2008.

Recommendations for using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the US, MMWR, 50 (RR14), 1-42, 8/17/2001.

Professionally Applied Topical Fluoride—Evidence-based clinical recommendations, American dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs, JADA, vol 137, Aug 2006 p 1151

Created: 9/09
Annual Review Month:
Review Dates:
Revision Dates:
Approval Dates: 9/22/09