



LINCOLN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

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SUBJECT: Dental Fluoride Varnish Procedure

APPROVAL DATE: 8/2013

REVISION DATE: 4/2013; 4/2017; 10/2019; 03/2022

REVIEWED DATE: 4/2014

PURPOSE: To define standards for the application of Fluoride Varnish with the intent of providing safe and effective services to the population served.

DEFINITIONS:

Dental Health: Educating children and parents on the importance of practicing dental hygiene beginning with the first tooth eruption, establishing healthy eating habits, drinking fluoridated water, and instituting early dental preventive care.

Fluoride varnish: The first topical fluoride treatment used safely and effectively for infants and toddlers.

Dental Home: The ongoing relationship between dentist and patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible coordinated and family-centered way.

PROCESS/PROCEDURE:

Applies to Medicaid, Insured, Uninsured

- An oral screening must be performed at every well-child visit. In addition, assessing for a dental home should occur at the 12-month and 18-month through 6-year visits. If no dental home is identified, perform a risk assessment and refer to a dental home.
 - An oral health risk assessment is recommended for all young children at well-child visits up to age 3 ½ years.
 - Oral risk screening tools include either the NC Priority Oral Risk and Referral Tool (PORRT) or the Bright Futures Oral Health Risk Tool.
 - An oral screening performed during a physical assessment is not a substitute for an examination by a dentist that results from a direct referral. The initial dental referral must be provided unless it is known that the child already has a dental home.
 - Per the AAPD, a dental home should be established no later than 12 months of age. If no dental home is identified by age 3, the PCP/Pediatrician **must** refer the child to a dentist for future dental care. A referral must be done for any older child or adolescent that does not have a dental home.
 - Provider/Nurse/MA will ensure the patient has information regarding the local dental homes as means of a referral.



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- Fluoride varnish application
 - Effective method of preventing or reducing the risk of dental caries in at risk populations
 - Applied every 3–6 months at Well-Child visits after the eruption of first teeth
 - 60-day time interval between procedures as per Medicaid if the services are provided at the 6- or 9-month well-child checkup
 - Limited to six times prior to the 42 months of age (Medicaid)
 - Applied by Medical Assistant (MA) or Nurse (LPN or RN)
 - Employees applying dental fluoride varnish to pediatric patients will follow the Steps for Fluoride Varnish Application as outlined in the Dental Varnish Application Competency.


REFERENCES:

American Dental Association. (2013). Professionally-Applied and Prescription-Strength, Home-Use Topical Fluoride Agents for Caries Prevention Clinical Practice Guideline. Retrieved from <https://www.ada.org/resources/research/science-and-research-institute/evidence-based-dental-research/topical-fluoride-clinical-practice-guideline>

NC Medicaid. (2018, September 20). Health Check Program Guide. Retrieved from https://files.nc.gov/ncdma/documents/Medicaid/EPSTDT/09-20-2018_Health-Check_Program Guide Final.pdf

NC Medicaid. (2019, December 4). Physician Fluoride Varnish Services. Retrieved from https://files.nc.gov/ncdma/documents/files/1A-23_1.pdf

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