

# Fluoride Varnish Provider Fact Sheet

## What is Fluoride?

A natural mineral found in water. It strengthens the surface of the tooth against decay.

## What is Fluoride Varnish?

A thin coating of 5% sodium fluoride varnish resin applied to surfaces of teeth to protect from decay. Over time, varnish releases fluoride which "remineralizes" and strengthens the teeth.

## What is the benefit to the CHDP Provider offering fluoride varnish in the medical setting?

Medical providers have the earliest most consistent contact with children. As a CHDP medical provider, it is required to conduct an oral health exam as part of the CHDP Health Assessment. The provider may identify a problem such as advanced tooth decay that can be slowed down by applying fluoride varnish until the child is able to be seen by a dentist.

## Who can apply fluoride varnish?

Medical practices can apply fluoride varnish to patients. A doctor, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, nurse, licensed vocational nurse (LVN), and/or medical assistant (MA) can provide fluoride varnish.

## What is the reimbursement rate for fluoride varnish?

Medi-Cal will reimburse the provider up to \$18 per treatment. Medi-Cal allows up to 3 treatments per 12 months for a child age 6 months up to age 5 OR the eruption of the first tooth. The provider may apply at 3-4 month intervals or at 2 week intervals for a child who is determined high-risk. **Not a CHDP benefit.**

## How much is the cost of the fluoride?

The cost of the fluoride varnish typically runs about \$177 for a box of 200, not including shipping fees. The price equates to about \$0.88 per treatment.

## What does a provider need to do to start providing fluoride varnish?

CHDP staff will go to the provider's practice to conduct training to medical staff. The training takes about 45 minutes and includes a hands-on component. CHDP will issue a certificate of completion to the provider to start fluoride varnish treatments. CHDP will provide all necessary training information and materials.

For any further clarification or questions, please contact CHDP at (661) 321-3000.

