



# Topical Fluoride Varnish for Children

## Role of Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in Dental Care

PCPs must perform basic oral screening for all enrollees, remind them of the need for two annual preventive dental visits and perform yearly cavity assessments on all children 18 years old and younger. A referral to a dentist by one year of age or soon after the eruption of the first primary tooth is recommended.

We encourage medical providers to apply fluoride varnish to children's teeth, perform dental assessments and promote routine oral health visits for our young members. These services combine for reimbursement as an all-inclusive service and bill with a CPT code. They can be provided up to four times a year. This frequency is separate from services a dentist provides.

PCPs play a critical role in their patient's dental health by referring them to their dental home and dentist after they are seen for a medical visit. The enrollee's dental home is listed on the front of their Aetna Better Health® Kids dental ID card. The enrollee can also call Skygen USA at **1-800-822-2447** to find a dentist or to answer any questions they may have.

## Importance of Oral Health in Children

Children begin to get their primary teeth during the first year of life. By age 6 or 7 years, they start to lose their primary teeth, which eventually are replaced by permanent teeth. Preventive dental care helps prevent tooth decay and identify other oral diseases. Tooth decay that is not treated can lead to pain, loss of teeth, and loss of self-confidence. Children who experience tooth pain may have difficulty eating or sleeping properly and may miss days of school. Early dental care will establish a lifetime of good oral habits.

[AetnaBetterHealthKidsPA.com](https://www.aetna.com/betterhealth/kids)  
**1-800-822-2447 (TTY: 711)**



## New HEDIS measure for 2023

**Measure Description:** The percentage of children 1–4 years of age who had at least two fluoride varnish applications during the measurement year. The State of Pennsylvania requires fluoride varnish and referrals to a dentist through the age of 5.

## Program Guidelines

We can reimburse participating pediatricians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants for the application of fluoride varnish if they've completed an online training curriculum or received training from a trained provider. We'll reimburse varnish application every six months on members 19 years old and younger.

**We can only reimburse trained providers.**

**You can take the training online.** Register at [smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/caries-risk-assessment-fluoride-varnish-and-counseling](https://smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/caries-risk-assessment-fluoride-varnish-and-counseling).

You'll need to enter CPT code 99188 and ICD-10 diagnosis code Z41.8 on the claim form when billing Aetna Better Health Kids.

## Complete Attestation Form

Providers who have completed the training must sign an attestation form. Providers may send a copy of their training certificate:

- By mail:  
Department of Human Services  
Office of Medical Assistance Programs  
Provider Enrollment  
Attention: TFV Indicator  
P.O. Box 8045  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8045
- By fax:  
Provider Enrollment Unit  
Attn: TFV Indicator  
Fax Number: **(717) 265-8284**

### Eligible enrollees must be:

- Enrolled with Aetna Better Health Kids as of the dates of their primary care visit.
- Any member 19 years old and younger.

For more information or questions please contact us at **1-800-822-2447**.

Aetna Better Health® Kids complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, creed, religious affiliation, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

**ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call: 1-800-822-2447 (TTY: 711).**

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-822-2447 (TTY: 711).

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1-800-822-2447 (TTY: 711).