



"Engaging Medical Clinicians in Oral Health."
Funded by **DentaQuest**
FOUNDATION

BILLING INFORMATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

RHODE ISLAND

How much will I be reimbursed for this service?

Both RIte Care plans cover application of fluoride varnish:

- ✓ HCPCS: D1206 - Topical therapeutic fluoride varnish application for moderate to high risk caries patients.
- ✓ ICD-9: V07.31

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island: \$18/application

Fluoride varnish is limited to member's age 6 months to 48 months, 2 times a year without an authorization, 4 times a year with authorization and rendered by the member's PCP or covering practitioner.

United HealthCare: \$13 /application

There are no age restrictions or limits on the number of times fluoride varnish can be applied.

Can Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC) bill for this service?

Because of the way that FQHCs bill, clinics cannot bill directly for the fluoride varnish. FQHCs are paid a set amount for each patient visit (the "visit rate"), regardless of the number of billable procedures they perform. Therefore, even if fluoride varnish is added to the bill, the clinic is still paid the same rate.

However, clinics will eventually be compensated indirectly. The "visit rate" is calculated based on the cost of the services delivered during the year, which takes into account all the visit codes entered. Therefore, the clinic's visit rate is

recalculated if the clinic has been providing fluoride varnish, thus increasing the visit reimbursement rate the next time the “visit rate” is adjusted.

In addition, because practices should already be performing many of the components of oral health evaluation as part of well child care visit (e.g. examining the mouth, talking about diet), the actual incremental time and cost to the clinic is fairly low.

Can I provide just the fluoride varnish without the oral evaluation?

No. You must always perform the oral evaluation and associated oral health counseling and education activities before applying fluoride varnish.

Does the oral evaluation and fluoride varnish have to be done with a physical exam to get paid?

The oral exam and varnish application can only be conducted as part of a well child visit.

Every time you perform an oral evaluation must you complete all the “required components?”

Yes. Every time an oral evaluation is performed, the oral evaluation you must include:

1. The oral evaluation with documentation of noteworthy findings;
2. Preventive counseling including dietary recommendations and oral hygiene;
3. Instructions;
4. Prescribing fluoride supplements if required;
5. Assessment of the need for fluoride varnish and application if required (either at this or subsequent visit);
6. Referral to a dental provider (if necessary).

Are any private carriers providing coverage of this service?

At this time, no private insurance carriers are providing coverage for this service. Practices may wish to provide this service to patients with private insurance or self-pay, and can do so by developing an appropriate fee schedule and billing the patient directly.