

HEDIS Provider Guide: Topical Fluoride for Children (TFL-CH)

Measure Description

The percentage of children ages 1 to 20 who received at least two (2) topical fluoride applications on two (2) different dates of service during the measurement year.

Services for topical fluoride varnish can be provided by the following types of providers:

- Primary physician’s (PCP’s) office
- Dental provider’s office

Note: No more than one fluoride application can be counted for the same member on the same date of service.

Exclusions: Members in hospice.

Using Correct Billing Codes

Codes to Identify Topical Fluoride Application for Children

Description	Codes
Application of Fluoride Varnish	CPT Code 99188
	CDT Code D1206

How to Improve HEDIS® Scores

- Apply fluoride varnish at least once every six (6) months, and preferably every four (4) months, starting at tooth eruption.
- Review the online information available for [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Provider guide on Oral health for infants and toddlers](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) at www.cdph.ca.gov
- Consider performing oral health risk assessments on all children at every routine well-visit beginning at 6 months of age.
- Ensure that medical records include the date that the topical fluoride application was given and code appropriately.
- Follow the [American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures, periodicity schedule](http://www.aap.org) available online at www.aap.org.
- Recommended use of fluoridated toothpaste: a grain of rice sized amount is recommended for children younger than 3 years of age, and a pea-sized amount is appropriate for most children starting at 3 years of age.
- The patient’s primary care physician (PCP) can play a major role in helping children’s teeth to stay healthy. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that PCPs apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.
- Ensure your data systems are configured for this measure and can ingest the CPT and CDT codes above.

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