



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
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**Attention: South Dakota Medicaid Providers**

**From: Primary Care Providers**

**RE: Primary Care Providers and Oral Health**

Primary care providers play an important role in Medicaid recipients' oral health. The US Preventive Services Task Force recommends primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption through age 5. In addition, both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians recommend primary care providers apply fluoride varnish.

Well-child visits present a valuable opportunity to assess a child's oral health status, deliver preventive services, educate parents and caregivers on proper oral health practices, and recommend recipients make an appointment for a dental check-up.

**Medicaid Coverage of Fluoride Varnish**

South Dakota Medicaid covers fluoride varnish in a clinic setting up to 3 times per year for children under age 6. The service must be billed using CPT code 99188. The services should be billed at the provider's usual and customary rate. The maximum allowable reimbursement is \$24.31 per application.

**Free Fluoride Varnish Training**

To engage primary care providers in helping prevent dental caries, the Delta Dental Partners for Prevention Program offers training and support tools for clinicians and staff on how to deliver preventive oral health services.

A free, one-hour lunch and learn training based on evidence-based research provides:

- Tips on providing risk assessments and oral health anticipatory guidance.
- Hands on practice in applying fluoride varnish.
- Free starter kit of fluoride varnish.

Clinics interested in signing-up for this free training should contact Cori Jacobson at [Cori.Jacobson@deltadentalsd.com](mailto:Cori.Jacobson@deltadentalsd.com).

Sincerely,

South Dakota Medicaid