



**VISIT [MASSHEALTH-DENTAL.ORG](https://masshealth-dental.org)  
TO VIEW A COMPLETE LIST OF  
MASSHEALTH DENTISTS IN YOUR AREA,  
OR CALL 1-866-616-2699, TTY 711.**

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLUORIDE VARNISH IN A MEDICAL SETTING**

Effective Date: February 2026



**DentaQuest**<sup>®</sup>  
a Sun Life company



## Healthy mouth = healthy child

- Very young children usually see a primary care provider more than eight times for well-child care before their first visit to a dentist.
- Because early intervention is so important to the prevention of dental disease, primary care providers are in a unique position to identify existing problems and provide guidance to parents.

## Why consider fluoride varnish in the medical setting?

1. You and fluoride varnish are the first weapons of defense against dental caries.
2. No dental cleaning is needed before application.
3. It is safe and well tolerated by infants, children, and children with special health care needs.
4. It takes less than one minute to apply and dries immediately upon contact with saliva.
5. No special dental equipment is needed.
6. Reimbursable at \$28 per application. CPT Service Code 99188.
7. This is a covered benefit for eligible MassHealth members from the age of 6 months to 20 years.

## Risk assessment:

- Please advise the parent to schedule the first dental visit beginning at age one.\*
- For the 72, 78, 24, 30 month, and the 3 and 6 year visit, risk assessments should continue if a dental home has not been established.\*

## Who can apply fluoride varnish?

1. Medical assistants
2. Physician assistants
3. Nurse practitioners
4. Registered nurses
5. Licensed practical nurses
6. Physicians

## Tips to share with parents to prevent tooth decay in children:

- It's recommended that children be seen by a dentist by the age of 1.
- Visit the dentist for a routine exam every 6 months, or as determined by your dentist.
- Brush twice a day for at least two minutes with a soft bristled toothbrush.
- Wipe baby's gums with a wet cloth after feeding, even before baby's teeth appear.
- Do not put baby to bed with a bottle.
- Give your children healthy snacks such as fruits and vegetables.

\*American Academy of Pediatrics. (2019, January). Recommendations for Preventative Pediatric Health Care.