

2023 Quality Measure Highlight

Topical Fluoride for Children (TFL-CH)

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) values our dedicated provider partner community, and we are here for you. We are sharing the 2023 Quality Measure Highlight: Topical Fluoride for Children (TFL-CH) to provide a snapshot of the Medicaid Child Core Set technical specifications and best practices to meet the measure.

For more information, please email the Alliance Quality Improvement (QI) Department at deptQIteam@alamedaalliance.org.

Measure Description: The percentage of members ages one (1) through 20 who received at least two (2) topical fluoride applications as (1) dental or oral health services, (2) dental services, and (3) oral health services within the measurement year.

Eligible Population: Children ages one (1) through 20 as of December 31 of the measurement year

Exclusions: None.

Numerator Compliance

Rate	Code
Rate 1: Dental or Oral Health Services	CDT D1206 or CDT D1208 or CPT 99188
Rate 2: Dental Services	CDT D1206 or D1208 and rendering provider has a "Dental Service" taxonomy code.
Rate 3: Oral Health Services	CPT 99188 and rendering provider has a valid taxonomy code that is NOT a "Dental Service" taxonomy code.

For primary care providers (PCPs): Use CPT 99188

Best Practices

- Complete training on proper fluoride varnish application technique (please see link below).
- Develop a workflow for your practice, including who prescribes the treatment, who is responsible for applying the varnish, and what visits an application will take place.
- Train and designate your Medical Assistant to apply fluoride varnish.
- Implement standing orders for varnish application.
- Reimbursement for application varies by contract. However, in order for the service to count toward the measure, procedure codes must still be used.
 - **Reminder:** PCPs use CPT 99188
- Share anticipatory guidance with parents/guardians about preventive dental care:
 - Take the child to the dentist by the first birthday and continue every six (6) months.
 - Brush teeth two (2) times a day with fluoride toothpaste.
 - Do not share spoons or cups with babies to prevent passing on germs that cause cavities.

References

Alameda County Public Health Department Office of Dental Health: <https://dental.acphd.org>

Smile California: <https://smilecalifornia.org>

Fluoride Varnish Helping Smiles Stay Strong brochure in English:

www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/publications/Documents/Fluoride-Varnish-Helping-Smiles-Stay-Strong.pdf

CHDP Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish: www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/FluorideVarnish.aspx#powerpoint

California CHDP/EPST Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish Protocol and Standing Order:

www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Documents/CHDP-FV-Application-Protocol-Standing-Order.pdf

Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set: <https://taxonomy.nucc.org>