

Topical Fluoride for Children HEDIS Measure Tip



Improving Quality Outcomes

Line of Business: ● Medicaid

TOPICAL FLUORIDE FOR CHILDREN (TFC)

Measure Description

The percentage of persons 1–4 years of age who received at least two fluoride varnish applications during the measurement year.

Report two age stratifications and a total rate:

- 1 – 2 years
- 3 – 4 years
- Total

Appropriate Code for Topical Fluoride for Children (TFC)

Description	CPT Code*	Modifier
Application of fluoride varnish by a primary care provider (PCP) during an EPSDT visit	99188	EP

*Code subject to change

Important Note:

Two or more fluoride varnish applications must be applied during the measurement year, **on different dates of services**.

To improve HEDIS measure:

- Primary care settings can start applying fluoride varnish with the first tooth eruption and apply it every 3 – 6 months.
- Conduct Oral Health Risk Assessment at every well-child visit starting at six months.
- Educate the parent/caregiver on the importance of good oral health.
- Encourage them to start early and establish a primary dental provider (PDP) for Oral Evaluation and Dental Services.
- Provide information on aftercare instructions, such as avoiding brushing or flossing for a few hours after application.
- FQHC with dental services can be used as a primary dental provider (PDP).
- Check to see if fluoride varnish was applied within three (3) or six (6) months by a PCP or Dental Provider before administering
- Peach State Health Plan members can access our website to **“Find A Doctor”** at <https://www.pshpgeorgia.com/find-a-doctor.html> to locate a dental provider in their area.

Resources:

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/prevention-of-dental-caries-in-children-younger-than-age-5-years-screening-and-interventions1>

<https://www.ada.org/resources/ada-library/oral-health-topics/fluoride-topical-and-systemic-supplements>

<https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/29918/AAP-stands-by-recommendations-for-low-fluoride?autologincheck=redirected>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/oral-health/Pages/FAQ-Fluoride-and-Children.aspx>

Disclaimer:

Although topical fluoride is considered safe and effective, excessive exposure may pose a risk of dental fluorosis. It is essential that the dentist or physician consult with the parent to determine the most suitable course of action for the child's oral healthcare.

This document is an informational resource and subject to change. Healthcare practitioners should use their professional judgment in using the information provided. HEDIS® measures are not a substitute for the care provided by licensed healthcare practitioners and patients are urged to consult with their healthcare practitioner for appropriate treatment. HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).