

Topical Fluoride for Children HEDIS Measure Tip



Improving Quality Outcomes

Line of Business: ● Medicaid



Topical Fluoride for Children (TFC)

Measure Description

The percentage of members 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.**

Improving HEDIS Measure:

- Primary care settings can start applying fluoride varnish with the first tooth eruption and apply it every 3 – 6 months.
- Fluoride is essential for preventing dental caries and tooth decay.
- Perform an Oral Health Risk Assessment to determine any risk factors.
- 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.
- Educate the parent on how to clean all surfaces of the teeth and gums twice a day, in the morning and before going to bed.
- FQHC with dental services can be used as a primary dental provider (PDP).

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.