



Reimbursement Tips, Suppliers

Starting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act required that individual and small-group health plans sold both on the state-based health insurance exchanges on the private market cover pediatric dental services. However, health plans that have grandfathered status under the law, or employers whose plans are covered under ERISA by Third Party Administrators, are not required to offer this coverage.

Most private/commercial payers must pay for 99188 under the health or medical plans for children up to age 6 because the US Preventive Services Task Force recommends it as a Level B recommendation. They are not mandated to cover older children. Since most carriers' claims systems do not recognize the dental service codes (D codes) on their medical claims platforms, CPT code 99188 was developed in 2015 and only includes varnish application, not risk assessment, education, or referral to a dentist (codes D0601, D0602, or D0603). As of 2021, Idaho medical Medicaid fluoride varnish is covered for all eligible children (no age limit) at a rate of \$14.26.

We encourage you to confirm with individual insurance companies as to their coverage for fluoride varnish.

CPT: 99188 Application of topical fluoride varnish by a physician or other qualified health care professional

Modifier 33 Used as a modifier for Medicaid reimbursement. As of 3.10.21, per Idaho Medicaid, there are no restrictions in the number of times per year this code can be utilized for each child. NOTE: reimbursement requests made through medical providers are not tied to reimbursement requests made through dental providers, so a child could receive fluoride varnish in both settings and reimbursement will be covered.

ICD-10 CM Z41.8 Encounter for other procedures for purposes other than remedying health state (topical fluoride applications)

Fluoride Varnish Suppliers:

When ordering, consider allergy ratings for product, taste, expiration date, temperature regulation, and unit dose.

For initial guidance, we recommend contacting the oral health program manager with your regional public health department. They may have other suppliers or might be able to connect you with regional sales reps for any of the following companies.

Burkhart Supply <https://www.burkhartdental.com/>

ElevateOralCare <https://www.elevateoralcare.com/products/FluoriMax>

Henry Schein <https://www.henryschein.com/>

Patterson Dental <https://www.pattersondental.com/>