

Topical Fluoride for Children (TFC)

Measure Description

The percentage of members 1–4 years of age who received at least two fluoride varnish applications, on different dates of service, during the measurement year.

The following two age stratifications and total rate are reported:

- 1-2 years
- 3-4 years
- Total

Product Line: Medicaid

Codes Included in the Current HEDIS® Measure

Description	Code
Application of Fluoride Varnish	CPT: 99188 CDT: D1206

Ways Providers can Improve HEDIS® Performance

- Starting at tooth eruption, provide preventive fluoride varnish application at least once every six (6) months, where appropriate.
- Consider using “My Water’s Fluoride”, a CDC tool that may assist in determining local water system fluoridation status.
- Follow the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Future, periodicity schedule available online at www.aap.org
- Providers should recommend the use of fluoridated toothpaste and the amounts to be used based on age, provide educational material/flyers to parents, and ensure that medical records include the date that topical fluoride was applied and that it was coded appropriately

Ways Health Plans can Improve HEDIS® Performance

- Educate providers on the use of “My Water’s Fluoride,” a CDC tool that may assist in determining local water system fluoridation status
- Remind parents of their dental benefits and help in scheduling an appointment to see a dentist if needed.
- Provide appointment reminder calls or postcards to help ensure that members do not miss medical appointments.
- Utilize in-home vendors to apply topical fluoride, when available
- Establish a dental home for the member to have an ongoing relationship between the dentist and the family
- Encourage the application of TFC in non-dental settings to help improve dental care access barriers
- Use culturally and linguistically appropriate language to educate parents about the importance of having children receive fluoride varnish applications



Required Exclusions

- Members who use hospice services or elect to use a hospice benefit any time during the measurement year.
- Members who die any time during the measurement year.



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