

ORAL HEALTH IN MARYLAND

2026 Newsletter



Maryland's Mouths Matter

Fluoride Varnish and Oral Health Screening Program

The Maryland Medicaid Program reimburses Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) medical providers who apply fluoride varnish to children, ages nine months through age five. Providers are eligible to receive a \$26.29 reimbursement for each varnish applied during an approved well-child visit. The Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health would love to help you become a part of the growing fluoride varnish provider team committed to using a preventive agent known to reduce dental caries in the primary (baby) teeth of “at-risk” infants and toddlers.

* Effective in early 2026, DentaQuest will be the new Healthy Smiles Dental Administrator.

Talking Points for You and Your Patient

- ➔ Soon after birth, begin wiping baby’s gums daily with a clean, wet washcloth
- ➔ Never put baby to bed with a bottle
- ➔ Once teeth come in, brush twice a day with a rice size amount of fluoride toothpaste
- ➔ Avoid sharing utensils and cleaning pacifier in your mouth since germs that cause cavities can spread
- ➔ Avoid foods and drinks containing sugar and make sure baby is not given juice during the first year
- ➔ Wean baby from bottle by 12-14 months
- ➔ Discuss the importance of oral health and fluoride
- ➔ First visit to dentist by age 1

Training & Certification

The Fluoride Varnish and Oral Health Screening online training program consists of four modules, each designed to provide medical and other health care providers with the knowledge needed to reduce dental caries among children ages five and under.

To access the course, please visit:
<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/flvarnish/>.

To be eligible for reimbursement, a provider must:

- ➔ First, be an EPSDT-certified pediatrician, family physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant licensed to practice in Maryland
- ➔ Participate in the Maryland Medicaid Program
- ➔ Successfully complete the Fluoride Varnish and Oral Health Screening online training program post-tests once they are EPSDT certified

For more information, contact:

Maryland Department of Health

Office of Oral Health

health.maryland.gov/oralhealth

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