To: Medi-Cal IPAs and Medi-Cal PCPs  
From: IEHP – Provider Relations  
Date: November 9, 2020  
Subject: Dental Fluoride Varnish – IMPORTANT UPDATE

**UPDATED INFORMATION:**

We are sending this clarifying message to highlight important information about this service. **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are not eligible to receive VBP payment for the fluoride varnish service according to the rules for Prop 56 payment established by DHCS.**

Dental Fluoride Varnish application is a covered Medi-Cal benefit for children **younger than 6 years of age, up to four times in a 12-month period.** PCPs are legally permitted and encouraged to apply fluoride varnish. DHCS publishes a web page specific to Fluoride Varnish that provides guidance on Provider training, schedule for fluoride varnish application and anticipatory guidance: [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/FluorideVarnish.aspx](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/FluorideVarnish.aspx)

Through the DHCS Value-Based Payment (VBP) Program administered by IEHP, Providers can receive $25.00 per eligible fluoride varnish application. The VBP Program incentivizes Providers through a pay-per-event payment process.

**Please remember:**
- All VBP eligible services must be captured through an encounter/claim for payment disbursement.
- Providers must report all encounters through normal reporting channels with their assigned IPA.
- IEHP is required to submit all VBP Program encounters to DHCS for reporting purposes.

**VBP Fluoride Varnish Service Description:** Incentive payment to Provider when oral fluoride varnish application is rendered to children ages **6 months through 5 years.**

- Payment to each rendering Provider for each occurrence of dental fluoride varnish for children younger than 6 years old (See codes below)  
- Payment for the first four visits in a 12-month period

Payment Description: In-network Providers who bill the following codes through normal encounter data or claims billing processes can be paid up to four times per Member per year.
### Codes to Identify Fluoride Varnish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Code Type</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride Varnish</td>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>99188</td>
<td>Application of topical fluoride varnish by a Physician or other qualified health care professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride Varnish</td>
<td>CDT</td>
<td>D1206</td>
<td>Topical fluoride varnish; therapeutic application for moderate to high caries risk patients</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at: [www.iehp.org](http://www.iehp.org) > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.