



CALIFORNIA CHDP/EPSDT DENTAL TRAINING: Fluoride Varnish

This training is based on the California CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines, Provider Manual, and the most current AAP oral health policy, and is aligned with the AAP Bright Futures Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care. In addition, this guidance takes into account the higher risk and needs of the EPSDT pediatric population which we serve.

The **CHDP/EPSDT Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish (FV)** was developed to provide detailed information about the application and benefits of FV. This training is designed to be used by CHDP local program staff, as well as CHDP and other Medi-Cal providers and their staff, in person or online.

Why is the **CHDP/EPSDT Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish** useful to CHDP programs and providers?

- Dental caries (tooth decay) is the single most common chronic childhood disease, with striking disparities among various disadvantaged and underserved population subgroups.¹
- More than half of California children have experienced dental caries by kindergarten, climbing to over 70% by third grade.²
- Children see medical providers on average 9 times before they ever visit a dentist.
- FV is a benefit of **Medi-Cal** (as well as other insurance plans) for eligible children under six years of age.
- FV is a low-cost and highly effective treatment that can be applied in minutes during the well child, and other medical visits.³

How can this training be used?

This is a training guide for CHDP program staff and providers, as well as other Medi-Cal providers. FV should be applied following the CHDP/EPSDT oral health assessment and dental referral, and could be applied during other medical visits. There is a practice session at the end of the FV PowerPoint (PPT) training, and therefore it is best presented in-person (counties with limited personnel could encourage and direct CHDP and other Medi-Cal providers and their staff to self-train online). Referenced educational materials and guides can be accessed and printed from the PPT, or from the **CHDP/EPSDT Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish** home page.

For questions regarding this training, contact Gayle Duke, Dental Hygienist Consultant, Integrated Systems of Care Division, gayle.duke@dhcs.ca.gov or a member of the California CHDP Oral Health Subcommittee FV Workgroup.

¹ [HHS Oral Health Initiative 2010](#)

² [Status of Oral Health in California: Oral Disease Burden and Prevention 2017](#) pg. 9

³ [California Program on Access to Care Findings May 2007](#)

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