



CALIFORNIA CHDP/EPSDT DENTAL TRAINING: Steps to Implement Fluoride Varnish in Your Medical Practice

While fluoride varnish (FV) is extremely effective, quick, and easy to apply, one of the most important steps in establishing FV is ensuring medical practice leadership is fully committed. Meet with your clinical decision maker(s) to discuss implementing FV in your clinic. (Prior to this meeting be sure all parties have viewed or attended the California CHDP/EPSDT FV Training). Review together the benefits of early prevention and data/information reflecting your community's high risk for dental caries. Address staffing and successful workflow options. One option is to start with a very small "pilot" in your clinic, for example: one provider, or one day a week, or one age group, to see what works best. For additional information refer to the California CHDP/EPSDT Program: Fluoride Varnish Protocol and Standing Order (Template).

Once the decision is made to begin FV in your practice, follow these Implementation Steps:

1. **Preliminary Information Meeting(s):** Set up 30-minute overview presentation(s) to engage all staff in the "Why and How" of implementing FV (including all medical and reception/clerical staff).
2. **Identify a clinic champion(s)** at your site, for example: 1 MD, RN, or MA, etc.
3. **Establish Medical Records** (electronic EMR or paper) for documentation - Set up Health Records
4. **Develop an application protocol** (See Protocol Template) and workflow:
 - a. Determine at what periodic well-child check (WCC) your clinic wants to provide FV, for example: at 6 months, 9 months, and 12 months
 - b. Establish standing order – Rx
 - c. Identify and document workflow for your site: Assign duties to MAs, and other trained staff
 - d. Identify re-ordering/stocking procedure:
 - (1) Who orders the FV? (usually staff that orders vaccinations)
 - (2) Where is the FV kept?
5. **Ask CHDP local program staff to present the California CHDP/EPSDT Program Fluoride Varnish Training** to staff (if not previously trained) including the "Hands - On" Practicum.
6. **Address these additional implementation key points** with your staff.
7. Proposed workflow and roles

8. Ordering procedure for Rx in EMR (Or your clinic may choose to use a standing order.)
9. Post application documentation protocol for charting in patient's paper or electronic medical record.
10. **Set start date**, share with staff.
11. **Publicize to patient parents** (posters, flyers, and brochures, etc.)
12. **Share progress with ALL staff**, by sharing monthly EMR FV reports.

Tips for Success:

- Start with a limited number/age range of children. Determine what age of patients your office wants to begin with and expand from there. For example: start with just 0 to 2-year olds and next expand to 3 & 4-year olds and end including 0 up to 6th birthday.
- If you have a dental clinic at your site, notify dental staff that patient can receive FV applications 3x in medical setting and 2x in dental clinic.
- A standing order is a way to easily provide FV every 3-6 months as recommended by [AAP Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care](#).
- Determine:
 - Where it will be applied (exam table, "knee to knee")
 - When during a well-child visit it will be applied? (before immunizations is slightly easier or
- Include reminder in morning huddle that patients may have FV order in their charts.
- Meet after first week to review with staff to determine ways to streamline workflow and troubleshoot problem areas.
- Meet in one to two months to retrain staff, and ascertain if any problems remain and trouble-shoot together.
- Determine how retraining will occur, and how new staff will be trained.
- At one of the refresher meetings share a video from the PPT training with staff.

POTENTIAL EMR fields to include prior to implementing FV in your clinic:

- **Add FV to:** 6 months through 5 year old well-child check
- **Add Procedure section** that includes this FV Rx Order
- Once this box is checked for the FV procedure, the following should also happen:
 - Diagnosis: Prophylactic Fluoride Administration (Z41.8) should be automatically checked
 - Patient Instructions: FV Home Care Instructions should be automatically added.
 - Billing Modifiers: FV Documentation (CPT Code: 99188)
- FV was applied to the patient's teeth.
 - Lot number: xxxx
 - Expiration date: xx/xx/xxxx
- Post-procedure information was given, including:
 - Avoid crunchy, hard or hot food for the rest of the day
 - Do not brush or floss the teeth until the next day
 - Any yellowish coating will go away