

**DISTRICT GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF FLUORIDE VARNISH
BY NURSES AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS UNDER A STANDING ORDER**

Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a RN, and Dental Hygienists may apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of young children who receive home visits or who present to Pediatric Clinics, Immunization Clinics, WIC, and other health district programs.

Training

Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a RN, and Dental Hygienists must have completed the “Bright Smiles for Babies” training conducted by Virginia Department of Health, Dental Health Program.

Procedure

- 1) The provider shall apply 5% sodium fluoride varnish in a thin layer to the surfaces of erupted primary teeth up to two times per year.
- 2) The amount to be applied shall be no more than a single .25 ml unit dose for children.
- 3) An oral health screening shall be conducted and documented.
- 4) Oral health information will be provided for parent and child, appropriate for the age, cultural background, and risk level.
- 5) Post-application instructions will be given to the parent.
- 6) In the absence of a dental home, a list of local dentists should be provided to the parent/caregiver.

Physician Orders:

Varnish may be applied without an individual patient prescription or physician order by Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a RN, and Dental Hygienists under the following conditions:

- 1) The child is less than 6 years of age with erupted primary teeth.
- 2) A signed consent is obtained from the parent /legal custodian/guardian of the child.
- 3) There is no sensitivity to colophony or colophonium (ingredients in the varnish). There are no soft tissue contraindications to applying the varnish, such as ulcerations of the gingival tissue (ulcerative gingivitis) or generalized inflammation of the gingival tissue (gingival stomatitis).

Dentist Orders:

Varnish may be applied without an individual patient prescription or treatment plan by Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a RN, and Dental Hygienists under the following conditions:

- 1) The child is 6 months to 3 years of age (to the third birthday) with erupted primary teeth.
- 2) A signed consent is obtained from the parent /legal custodian/guardian of the child.
- 3) There is no sensitivity to colophony or colophonium (ingredients in the varnish). There are no soft tissue contraindications to applying the varnish, such as ulcerations of the gingival tissue (ulcerative gingivitis) or generalized inflammation of the gingival tissue (gingival stomatitis).

VDH Staff (nurse/hygienist) _____

(Print name)

Approved by: _____ (District Director)/ (Dentist)

(Signature)

(Print name)

Health District/Office: _____

Effective Date: _____