

Into The Mouths of Babes

NC Dental Screening & Varnish Project



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Change in Fluoride Varnish Product Recommendation

Colgate, the distributor of Duraphat Fluoride Varnish, recently reported that the manufacturer has stopped production. Many of you had difficulty ordering it in the past and those of you working in organizations that undergo the JCAHO accreditation process are required to use unit dosing. For these reasons, the 'Into the Mouths of Babes' (IMB) Advisory Committee is recommending an alternative fluoride varnish product: Duraflor. This product has similar ingredients, the most important being the resin-based adhesive that keeps the varnish on the teeth for an extended period of time. Duraflor comes in tube or unit dosing. The IMB advisory committee does NOT RECOMMEND the transparent or 'white' varnish products. These products lack long-term clinical trial data demonstrating effectiveness in preventing cavities or safety in young children.

You may continue to order these products from Henry Schein (1-800-772-4346 or www.henryschein.com) or the company of your choice. Item numbers when ordering from Henry Schein:

- Duraflor fluoride varnish/tube – item # 107-9307 (\$27.99/tube)
- Duraflor fluoride varnish/ .25ml unit dose – item #107-8603 (\$41.99/box of 32, includes applicator)

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Oral Preventive Procedure is Effective!

The three part oral preventive procedure – oral evaluation, parent counseling, and fluoride varnish application – is **most** effective if a child receives at least four procedures before they reach age 3½. By that age, they should ideally have a dental home where they can continue to receive topical fluoride applications. Topical fluorides, such as varnish, are most effective when applied at regular intervals. If you would like more information about the ‘Into the Mouths of Babes’ program, contact Kelly Close, IMB project coordinator, at 919-707-5485 or kelly.close@dhhs.nc.gov.

Increase in Medicaid Fluoride Varnish Code D1206

Effective with date of service September 1, 2008, the reimbursement rate for the application of topical fluoride varnish (procedure code D1206) was increased to \$16.80. **No adjustments will be accepted from providers for this rate change.** Providers are reminded to bill their usual and customary charges rather than the Medicaid rate.

For coverage criteria and additional billing guidelines, please refer to [Clinical Coverage Policy 1A-23, Physician Fluoride Varnish Services](#) (www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/physician/1A23.pdf).

