

Fluoride Varnish

APPLICATION OF FLUORIDE VARNISH BY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Health professionals have a new opportunity to help prevent tooth decay in young children. Health professionals can provide a valuable service by performing an oral health risk assessment and oral screening, assuring adequate use of fluorides (including prescribing dietary fluoride supplements if indicated), demonstrating toothbrushing, providing anticipatory guidance and referring children for dental examinations and care. Now you can also perform a simple preventive procedure for children in your offices, clinics or other community-based settings.

WHO CAN APPLY FLUORIDE VARNISH IN NORTH DAKOTA?

As of April 10, 2007, dental professionals are not the only health professionals who can apply fluoride varnish. The North Dakota Century Code outlines requirements to those who are qualified to provide the service. Health professionals who may be delegated to provide the service include registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered dental hygienist, or a registered dental assistant, or medical assistant.

Web-based training found at:

<http://www.meded.umn.edu/apps/pediatrics/FluorideVarnish/index.cfm>

There are three items (web based module, atlas, and print material) created to complement the web-based training:

- 1) **Web-based module (also available on CD-ROM)** – Etiology and Prevention of Dental Caries, Strategies for Prevention, Dental Health Screening, “Lift the Lip” Examination (film clip), Fluoride Varnish Application Procedure (film clip), Billing Process.
- 2) **The atlas (Pediatric Oral Health: Smiles for Tomorrow)** addresses common dental pathology for the benefit of primary care medical professionals. It has sections (photographs) devoted to dentition and eruption patterns, dental caries (including pit and fissure and smooth surface caries), tooth brushing, fluorosis, gingivitis, conditions of the newborn, and trauma. The atlas will not only help medical providers identify dental conditions but will be useful when discussing dental health with parents.
- 3) **The print material** which has three components and is sent with the atlas contains information for medical providers, prompts for health advocates/medical clinic support staff, and advice for parents. The information for medical providers goes into detail about the etiology of dental caries, strategies for prevention, water fluoridation, fluoride supplements, topical fluoride application, role of diet and nutrition, risk assessment (includes a risk assessment form), and screening. The information for health advocates/medical clinic support staff is intended to help educate ancillary clinic staff who are in a position to answer parents’ questions and help support the primary care

medical providers in their education of parents. The information for parents can be shared with them in clinic or copied and given to them to take home.

There is a link at the end of the web presentation to a critique of the course, which triggers a request for continuing education credit. If you use the CD-ROM for training and want the CME credit, let me know by email of your interest and I'll send you an evaluation form, which can be returned to me for the credit. Be sure to give me your USPS mailing address. Please contact Dr. Amos Deinard, MD, MPH (deina001@umn.edu); 612-638-0700 x212) if you have questions.

Finally, if you are interested in the atlas/print material, or if your computer system can not display all of the web site and you would like the CD-ROM version, please email me, (deina001@umn.edu) with your request and your USPS mailing address or use the following order form:

Invoice Number _____

Order Form

Dental Health Screening and Fluoride Varnish Application

From: Name _____
Street address (not P.O. Box) _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

To: Amos S. Deinard, M.D., M.P.H.
1729 Morgan Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Instructions:

Please submit a check or purchase order made out to the University of Minnesota (Federal Tax ID#: 41-6007513) to the address above. The University of Minnesota cannot process credit cards. Include a copy of this order form. The cost is \$28.50 USD for each set of materials (atlas and print material) ordered. Materials will be sent upon receipt of payment.

If you have questions please call Amos Deinard at 612-377-1020.

Number of Sets Ordered _____

Amount Due \$ _____ **USD**

*** FedEx will not deliver to a P.O. Box**