

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 08-50

**Distribution:** Practitioners (Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses, Medical Clinics, FQHC/RHC/THC), Dentists, Local Health Departments, Medicaid Health Plans

**Issued:** October 1, 2008

**Subject:** EPSDT Periodicity Schedule of Age One Oral Health Screening;  
Fluoride Varnish Program for Infants and Children up to Age Three;  
Referrals to Dentists

**Effective:** November 1, 2008

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted an onsite review of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Medicaid Program's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Dental program earlier this year. The scope of the dental review included the periodicity schedules, diagnosis and treatment, beneficiary notification and access to services.

### **EPSDT Periodicity Schedule and Oral Health Screening**

One area reviewed was the EPSDT periodicity schedule for oral screening. The Medicaid Program utilizes the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Periodicity Schedule. Included in the periodicity schedule is the oral health screen provision for the primary care physician. It indicates that an oral health screen is provided at 12 months and referral to a dentist if dental care is needed. It also indicates that an oral health risk assessment be completed at 12 months.

The AAP Periodicity Schedule can be found online at: [www.aap.org/visit/prevent.htm](http://www.aap.org/visit/prevent.htm).

One of the CMS recommendations was for the State to better inform providers, both medical and dental, of the periodicity schedule regarding the oral health screen and dental services. In addition, the State should increase its effort to identify children and get them enrolled into dental care. Efforts are being made by the Medicaid Program along with the Oral Health Program, the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and the Michigan Dental Association to address these recommendations.

### **Oral Health Screening and Fluoride Varnish**

Effective for dates of service on and after November 1, 2008, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is implementing an age one (12 months) oral health screen and fluoride varnish program for medical providers. This program is intended for medical providers, such as pediatricians, family practitioners, and nurse practitioners who treat beneficiaries up to age three (0 – 35 months). This program will help aid in early identification of caries and help provide a risk assessment and intervention for medical providers in order to help reduce the risk of early childhood caries.

The MDCH Oral Health Program has developed an online training program and fluoride varnish manual for use in medical practices. Medical providers are required to complete the training and submit verification of the completion to the Oral Health Program. The Oral Health Program will distribute a certificate to the medical providers upon completion. In addition, the Oral Health Program will keep an updated list and monitor the practices that receive a completion certificate.

Training materials will be posted mid-October to the MDCH website at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Billing and Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information >> Dental.

The MDCH Oral Health Program will offer group and/or individual fluoride varnish training programs depending upon the demand. For further information, contact:

Susan Deming, RDH, RDA, BS  
Education/Fluoride Coordinator  
Oral Health Program  
Michigan Department of Community Health  
PO Box 30195  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

517-335-8879      [oralhealth@michigan.gov](mailto:oralhealth@michigan.gov)

### **Billing and Reimbursement for Fluoride Varnish**

The fluoride varnish program is for children up to age three (0 – 35 months). Fluoride varnish can be applied to teeth up to four times a year. The procedure code for fluoride varnish application is D1206. This code can be billed on the CMS 1500 or the 837 4010A1 Professional claim format. The fluoride varnish application is a separate reimbursement.

The oral health screen is part of the well-child visit performed by the medical provider. There is no additional reimbursement for the screen.

### **Referrals to Dentists and Age One Dental Visit**

The Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentists is implementing an initiative called Points of Light. This initiative plans to establish referral mechanisms between medical and dental practices within a community for infant oral health.

At this time, the Medicaid Program recommends that a beneficiary be referred to a dentist at age one for a dental visit but it is not required. The required age for a referral to a dentist is age three. Until the Medicaid Program has had sufficient time to recruit an adequate network of dentists willing to examine and treat infants and young children, the age one dental visit is a recommendation, not a requirement. A periodicity schedule for dentists will be forthcoming in the upcoming months.

### **Manual Maintenance**

Retain this bulletin until the information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approved**



Paul Reinhart, Director  
Medical Services Administration