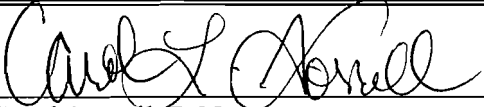
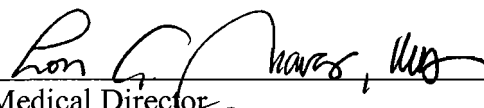


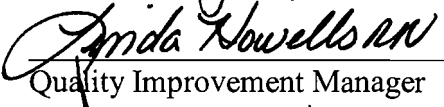
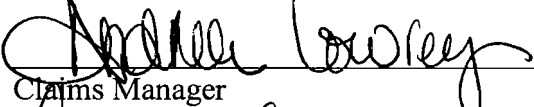



**KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SUBJECT: Topical Fluoride Varnish		INDEX NUMBER 3.63-P	Page 1 of 3
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT HEAD: Director of Health Services			
Review Date			
Effective Date	04/01/08		
Revision No.	2008-03		

Approved		Date	3/13/08
	Carol Sorrell, R.N. Chief Executive Officer		
Approved		Date	1/11/08
	Medical Director		
Approved		Date	1/10/08
	Chief Operations Officer		
Approved		Date	1/8/08
	Provider Relations Manager		
Approved		Date	1/8/08
	Quality Improvement Manager		
Approved		Date	1/4/08
	Claims Manager		
Approved		Date	12/13/07
	Director of Health Services		

POLICY¹:

Effective for dates of service on or after June 1, 2006, fluoride varnish applications to the teeth are a Medi-Cal benefit for children younger than six years of age, up to three times in a twelve month period. Physicians, nurses and medical personnel are legally permitted to apply fluoride varnish when the attending physician delegates the procedure and establishes protocol.

PURPOSE:

To control early childhood caries (ECC) through the application of fluoride varnish.

DEFINITIONS:

Early Childhood Caries	Early childhood caries is defined as tooth decay found in the primary dentition
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**KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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(ECC)	of a child younger than six years of age. ECC is an infectious process caused by acid producing bacteria, primarily Streptococcus mutans and Lactobacilli species.
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PROCEDURE:

1.0 REIMBURSEMENT

Kern Health Systems (KHS) will reimburse providers for the topical fluoride varnish application as a Medi-Cal benefit. Providers are to bill for this service with HCPC code D1203 on a CMS 1500 claim form or electronically.

Fluoride varnish applications are not a benefit of the CHDP program. If a fluoride varnish is applied during a CHDP visit, providers should submit the CHDP visit using the PM 160 as informational only and bill KHS for the CHDP visit and fluoride varnish on the CMS 1500 form or electronically.

If a non-CHDP visit submit CMS 1500 for claim encounter including the office visit and the fluoride varnish as services.

2.0 INFORMING MEMBERS

Members are informed that the fluoride varnish treatment is an available service for Medi-Cal members under six years of age and are instructed that the service may be offered at an office visit with their Primary Care Provider (PCP). Methods used to inform members may include but are not limited to the KHS website, Member Handbook, KHS Member Newsletter, the KHS Health Care Guide or a postcard.

3.0 PROVIDER TRAINING

Fluoride varnish training information is available to network providers and their staff through the KHS website. Instructions include:

- A. How to obtain Fluoride Varnish supplies
- B. Fluoride varnish application and periodic dental assessments
- C. Parental anticipatory guidance
- D. Referring children to a dentist for a dental examination and care at one year of age Per Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) guidelines
- E. Coordination of member care with dental professionals

4.0 DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with contractual requirements, providers will document dental assessments and fluoride varnish applications in the member's medical record in a timely manner. Documentation can occur on the CHDP Confidential Screening Billing Report (PM160).

**KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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Providers are encouraged to schedule visits that include fluoride varnish application.

5.0 MONITORING

KHS Provider Relations Department will survey pediatricians to determine which providers are providing the topical fluoride varnish to members. In addition, the Quality Improvement (QI) Department will promote the fluoride varnish application through provider newsletters and the KHS website.

¹ **Revision 2008-03:** Developed to comply with DHCS MMCD Letter 07008. Effective date of service June 1, 2006