

1st Look Program Specifics

Medicaid Patient 1st providers will be able to bill for an initial oral assessment and the application of fluoride varnish for high caries risk children. The provider and staff will be required to have been trained and certified through an approved educational program.

If a child has seen a dentist, the child does not qualify for the 1st Look program and the medical provider should not render services for the oral exam and fluoride application. Medical providers are encouraged to verify that a child has not been seen by a dental provider prior to performing 1st Look services. If a patient has been previously seen by a dentist and services are provided, the medical provider will not be reimbursed for the D0145 or the D1206 codes. Those children determined to be at high risk will be eligible to receive the varnish applications.

The AAPD Caries Risk Assessment Tool (CAT) criteria will be utilized, but will be modified to require at least two high risk indicators. Currently the criteria allow any child who is eligible for Medicaid to be considered high risk. The 1st Look program will require at least one additional high risk indicator.

Varnish procedures will be limited to 3 per calendar year, regardless of the provider, not to exceed a maximum of 6 applications between 6 months and 36 months of age. The allowed frequency will be no less than 90 days. D0145 may be billed once by a medical provider and once by a dental provider for children age 6 months to 36 months. Medical records must document the content of the anticipatory guidance counseling given to parents/caregivers, the results of the CAT, and documentation that a referral has been made to the Patient 1st Care Coordinators for all high risk children.

Once a child has a dental home, this information will be kept on file with the medical provider, and no further fluoride varnish applications by the medical provider will be permitted.

The approved training course is the Alabama Chapter-AAP module "Take a 1st Look: A Healthy Smile = A Healthy Child," as well as program specific information from Alabama Medicaid. Successful completion of a post-test is required. Trainers are pediatric dentists or general dentists with significant expertise in pediatric dentistry, who have completed a trainer course and are listed as approved instructors by Alabama Medicaid. The course is now available online on the AL-AAP website as an Enduring Materials CME activity and can be provided as a face-to-face session as well.

Dental providers are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the ADA, AGD, and the AAPD with regard to all children receiving their first dental visit by six months after the eruption of the first tooth or NLT 12 months of age, and be willing to accept referrals from medical providers or assist in appropriate referral to a specialist when indicated.