



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 797**

June 12, 2009

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Clinics

**ISSUED BY:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

**RE:** D1206 – Topical Fluoride Varnish

Childhood caries is entirely preventable, but is now the most common disease among children in the United States. In order to help prevent dental disease, Medicaid allows reimbursement to physicians and nurse practitioners for the application of topical fluoride varnish provided to children up to 36 months of age. The application must be provided in conjunction with an early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPDST) examination, which includes an oral screening.

Separate payment is allowed only for the fluoride varnish application. The oral screening is a part of the EPSDT examination and is considered included in reimbursement for the examination.

Payment is allowed for up to three fluoride varnish applications every 12 months. Procedure code D1206 should be billed. Reimbursement is at the same amount paid to dentists for this service.

Parents, legal guardians, or other authorized caregivers of children receiving a topical fluoride application must be informed by the physician, nurse practitioner or their auxiliary staff that this application is not a substitute for comprehensive dental care. Every reasonable effort should be made to refer or facilitate referral of these children to a dentist for comprehensive dental care. Assistance with dentist referrals may be obtained by contacting the local I-Smile Oral Health Coordinator. Individual contact information is available on the Iowa Department of Public Health I-Smile Oral Health Coordinator map available at:  
[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral\\_health\\_ismile.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral_health_ismile.asp).

Six web based training modules have been developed by the Iowa Academy of Pediatrics to help primary health care providers learn about early childhood caries. The modules are available without cost at: <http://www.iowaped.org/>

If you have any questions, please contact IME Provider Services, 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-725-1004 or by e-mail at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us)