



SAMPLE

Standing Orders for Applying Fluoride Varnish on Children

Purpose: To reduce dental caries in children and/or reverse the formation of dental decay in high risk children.

Policy: Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other licensed healthcare professionals, where allowed by state law, may apply fluoride varnish on patients who meet all of the criteria below.

Procedure:

1. Identify children eligible to receive fluoride varnish based on meeting all of the following criteria:

- A. Signed informed consent has been secured from the parental/legal custodian/guardian of the child.

AND

- B. The child must be under age 5 with document risk for dental caries (Populations believed to be at increased risk for dental caries are those with low socioeconomic status or low levels of parental education, those who do not seek regular dental care, and those without dental insurance or access to dental services. Individual factors that possibly increase risk include active dental caries; a history of high caries experience in older siblings or caregivers; root surfaces exposed by gingival recession; high levels of infection with cariogenic bacteria; impaired ability to maintain oral hygiene; malformed enamel or dentin; reduced salivary flow because of medications; radiation treatment, or disease; low salivary buffering capacity (i.e., decreased ability of saliva to neutralize acids); and the wearing of space maintainers, orthodontic appliances, or dental prostheses. Risk can increase if any of these factors are combined with dietary practices conducive to dental caries (i.e., frequent consumption of refined carbohydrates). Risk decreases with adequate exposure to fluoride. (CDC, MMWR, 2001)

2. An oral health screening shall be conducted and documented by a health professional who has demonstrated competence and training in oral screening and the application of fluoride varnishes, or a health professional who is working under the supervision of a licensed dentist or physician.
3. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to fluoride varnish:

Contraindications:

1. Known sensitivity to colophony or colophonium or other product ingredients which include:
 - A. Ethyl alcohol anhydrous USP 38.58%
 - B. Shellac powder 16.92%
 - C. Rosin USP 29.61%
 - D. Copal
 - E. Sodium Fluoride 4.23%
 - F. Sodium Saccharin USP 0.04%
 - G. Flavorings, Cetostearyl Alcohol
2. Document each patient's fluoride varnish application in the medical chart. Include the manufacturer and lot number, and the name and title of the person administering the fluoride varnish.

Pre-application Instructions

1. Remind the parent/legal custodian/guardian to provide the child something to eat or drink before receiving the fluoride varnish application.
2. Advise the parent/legal custodian/guardian that the child's teeth may become temporarily discolored, as some fluoride varnish has an orange-brown tint.
3. Explain the discoloration will be brushed off the following day, yet the protective qualities of the fluoride varnish will remain.
4. Remind the parent/legal custodian/guardian that the child should avoid hot beverages and crunchy or sticky foods for 4 to 6 hours (remain on a soft food diet).

This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of until rescinded or until (date-no more than one year, subject to renewal).

Medical Director's Signature:
(name of practice or clinic)

Effective Date: