

MARCH 6, 2024

Fluoride varnish training required to bill CPT Code 91888

It has come to our attention that some non-dental providers are billing for Fluoride Varnish application under CPT 91888 but have not completed the DHS required training referenced below. **Starting May 6, 2024, ONLY providers who have completed one of the training certification classes listed below will be paid for claims billing CPT 91888.** If you are a non-dental provider and already have your TFV certification, disregard this notice.

Physicians and CRNPs must complete a TFV application training course approved by the Department to receive CHIP payment for the application of TFV. Upon completion of the training course, physicians and CRNPs are required to submit the certification to the Department for inclusion in their CHIP Program enrollment file.

DHS currently accepts two one-time certifications for the application of TFV for children under the age of five obtained by physicians and CRNPs.

- ❑ “Healthy Teeth Healthy Children” (HTHC) is a TFV training course conducted on-site at the provider’s office by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Physicians and CRNPs wishing to schedule an on-site training course for the application of TFV certification may contact HTHC by accessing the following website link: <http://www.healthyteethhealthychildren.org/>.
- ❑ “Smiles for Life” is an on-line TFV training module provided by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. This program was previously accepted as a Department approved program in MA Bulletin 09-12-27, 31-12-27, titled “Revision of On-Line Training Module for the Application of Topical Fluoride Varnish”, issued May 1, 2012, effective June 1, 2012. Physicians and CRNPs may obtain TFV certification by accessing the following website link: <http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org>.

Certification Process

In order to receive CHIP payment for the application of TFV, physicians and CRNPs, must:

- 1) Complete a TFV application training course approved by DHS;
- 2) Receive a TFV training certificate verifying the physician or CRNP completed the DHS approved training; and

3) Submit a copy of the TFV training certificate to the DHS Provider Enrollment Unit as directed below:

NOTE: Please include the 13-digit CHIP provider identification number for the provider for which the certificate applies at the top of the certificate. Please be sure to include all applicable service locations.

Providers may mail a copy of their training certificate to:

Department of Human Services
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Provider Enrollment Attention: TFV Indicator
P.O. Box 8045
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8045
or,

Providers may fax their training certification to:

Provider Enrollment Unit
Attn: TFV Indicator
Fax Number: (717) 265-8284

The DHS Provider Enrollment Unit will add the TFV indicator to the physician's or CRNP's enrollment file within 30 days of receiving the provider's TFV training certificate. The TFV indicator will be added to the provider's enrollment file effective with the date of completion on the provider's TFV training certificate. DHS will notify the provider when the TFV indicator is added to his or her enrollment file. Providers may submit claims for TFV services rendered on or after the effective date of the TFV indicator once they receive notification the TFV indicator has been added to their provider file.

Claims submitted for procedure code 99188, defined as "The application of topical fluoride varnish by a physician or other qualified health care professional" will be denied if the physician or CRNP does not have the TFV indicator on their enrollment file.

Physicians and CRNPs who were previously trained and certified and whose CHIP Program provider enrollment file(s) have been updated by DHS to include the TFV indicator are not required to recertify.

Please note: This new process may result in a change in how your practice is reimbursed for these services. We urge you to thoroughly review the information in this notice.

Questions? Call Provider Relations at 1-866-638-1232 for assistance.