

February 29, 2024

## **PROVIDER ALERT: DENTAL SCREENING REMINDER (NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH)**

February was National Children's Dental Health Month. MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia (MFC-DC) wants to remind our primary care practitioners about the importance of performing an oral health assessment during the Well-Child Visit. Oral health assessments are a required part of every primary care well-child visit for our young enrollees in order to assist with the identification of who may need dental care. Primary care practitioners may bill for oral health assessments using Current Dental Terminology (CDT) code D0191.

In addition to regular oral health assessments, the application of fluoride varnish every three (3) to six (6) months has been proven to decrease the incidence of early childhood caries. Primary care practitioners may bill for the fluoride varnish application on a child less than three (3) years of age using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 99188. CPT code 99188 is reimbursable once every three (3) months.

**Please note: In order to receive reimbursement, primary care practitioners must complete the fluoride varnish training offered through DC HealthCheck.**

The DC HealthCheck Periodicity schedules reflect the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry guidelines. Both the dental and primary care DC HealthCheck periodicity schedules are available on [www.dchealthcheck.net](http://www.dchealthcheck.net).

**Please note: The DHCF requires all pediatric primary care practitioners to complete EPSDT training and strongly encourages fluoride varnish training. Both are available through the DC HealthCheck website.**

For additional information concerning dental services in a primary care office setting, please refer to DHCF Transmittal 24-09 dated February 23, 2024.

For questions concerning this Provider Alert, please contact the MFC-DC Provider Customer Service Department, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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