

ORAL HEALTH IN THE PEDIATRIC OFFICE

IT'S NOT JUST TEETHING
ANYMORE!

Oral Health and Children

Early childhood caries (cavities) is the number 1 chronic disease affecting young children.

Early childhood caries is 5 times more common than asthma and 7 times more common than hay fever.

Tooth pain keeps many children home from school or distracted from learning.

Children are recommended to have their first dental visit by age 1.

Early Childhood Decay in South Carolina - A Fact Sheet

- In the United States, 28% of preschool age children have experienced early childhood caries.
- In South Carolina, 52% of children younger than eight years of age have experienced tooth decay.
- Economically disadvantaged children are significantly more likely to have experienced early tooth decay than children from a stable financial background.
- Fact Sheet from SC DHEC

WHERE TO START?

AAP Oral Health Practice Tools incorporate oral health into your practice with these easy-to-use tools and resources. Learn how to perform an oral health risk assessment, nutrition and oral hygiene counseling, and to apply fluoride varnish when needed as a vital part of the well child exam.

<http://www.aap.org/oralhealth/practicetools.html>



Oral Health Risk Assessment



Bright Futures Recommendations

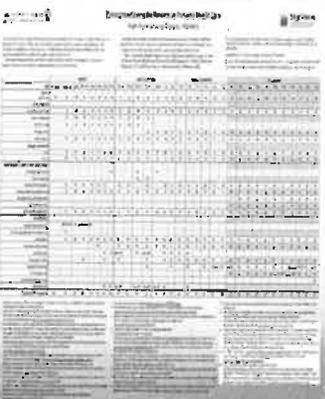
Oral Health Risk Assessment recommended at 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30 month, 3 year and 6 year well visits

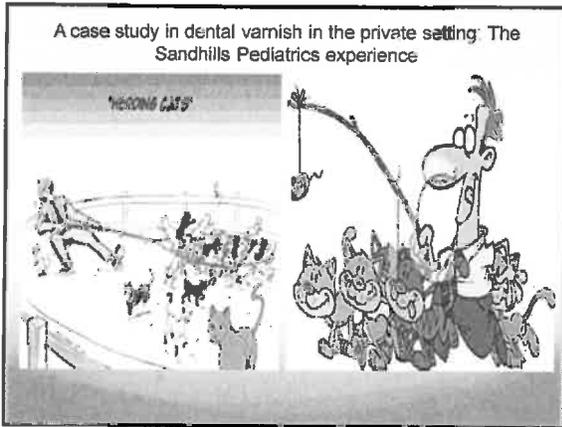
It is a billable code AAP recommends 99420 'Health Risk Assessment'

Risk assessment not paid by SC HHS

SC HHS does pay for varnish Every 6 months from 6 months until 36 months, even though not on Bright Futures yet

Max: ECES does too, thanks to USPTF recommendation!





A case study in dental varnish in the private setting: The Sandhills Pediatrics experience

When we began this program, we had four offices and fourteen doctors. We now have five offices and seventeen doctors.

We began a few test cases in November 2011. We found the procedure was fast and easy, well accepted by patients, and indeed paid by SC Medicaid.

In January 2012, we began in earnest applying varnish to all Medicaid children with teeth under age 3 at their next visit.

We have continued this program to present, and attempt to apply varnish every six months on a patient once we begin.

We began test cases of privately insured patients in July 2014, and began offering to all in October 2014.

We have tracked number of dental varnishes by doctor and location.

We have found that the uptake of new things is slow and variable by doctor, location, and over time of year, but eventually the benefits become obvious to all.

