



CHDP Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish

This training is adapted from the ***CHDP Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral*** located on the CHDP Training website at: www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/Training.aspx.

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Dear CHDP Directors and Deputy Directors:

Following the dissemination of the ***CHDP Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral***, many medical providers requested more detailed information about fluoride varnish. In response, fluoride varnish training was developed. This training is designed to be used by CHDP county staff, as well as CHDP providers and their staff, in person or online.

Why is the *CHDP Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish* useful to CHDP programs and providers?

- Dental caries (tooth decay) is the single most common chronic childhood disease, with striking disparities among various disadvantaged and underserved population subgroups.¹
- More than half of California children have experienced dental caries by kindergarten, climbing to over 70% by third grade.²
- Children see medical providers on average 9 times before they ever visit a dentist.
- Fluoride varnish is a **Medi-Cal benefit** for eligible CHDP children under six years of age.
- Fluoride varnish is a low-cost and highly effective treatment that can be applied in minutes during the well child visit.³

How can this training be used?

This training is best used following the more comprehensive ***CHDP Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral***, or its condensed version. There is a practice session at the end of this fluoride varnish PowerPoint (PPT) training, and therefore it is best presented in-person. (Counties with limited personnel could encourage and direct CHDP providers and their staff to self-train online.) Referenced educational materials and guides can be accessed and printed from the PPT, or from the ***CHDP Dental Training: Fluoride Varnish*** home page.

For questions regarding this training, contact Gayle Duke, Dental Hygienist Consultant, Systems of Care Division at: gayle.duke@dhcs.ca.gov

Sincerely,

CHDP Statewide Oral Health Subcommittee

¹ <http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/hhsinitiative.pdf>

² http://www.centerfororalhealth.org/images/lib_PDF/dhf_2006_report.pdf

³ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2257982/>