




Medical Assistance BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE April 8, 2025	EFFECTIVE DATE April 8, 2025	NUMBER 09-25-35, 10-25-02, 27-25-34, 31-25-35
SUBJECT Application of Topical Fluoride Varnish		BY  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/providers/provider-enrollment-information/provider-enrollment-documents.html>

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

- Remind Medical Assistance (MA) enrolled physicians, physician assistants (PA), and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP) that they can render topical fluoride varnish (TFV) services to MA beneficiaries.
- Remind providers of updated limits for procedure code 99188 on the MA Program Fee Schedule for the provision of TFV.
- Advise providers of the removal of mandatory TFV training requirements.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to MA enrolled physicians, PAs, and CRNPs who render services to MA beneficiaries in the Fee-for-Service delivery system. Providers rendering services in the MA managed care delivery system should address any coding or billing questions to the appropriate managed care organization.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services (Department) began payment to physicians and CRNPs for the application of TFV to MA beneficiaries under five years of age on April 1, 2010, as advised in MA Bulletin 09-10-08. This bulletin also described mandatory training that practitioners had to complete in order to be paid for applying TFV to MA beneficiaries.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Fee-for-Service Provider Service Center: 1-800-537-8862

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/departments-offices/omap-info.html>

On September 1, 2015, the Department advised physicians and CRNPs in MA Bulletin 09-15-14 of the requirement to use procedure code 99188 instead of D1206. On February 26, 2016, the Department provided physicians and CRNPs with the list of approved trainings available for the application of TFV in MA Bulletin 09-16-10.

On August 29, 2022, the Department advised physicians and CRNPs in MA Bulletin 99-22-05 that the age limit for procedure code 99188 was increased to age 20. On September 5, 2023, the Department advised physicians, PAs, and CRNPs in MA Bulletin 99-23-09 that the MA Program fee schedule limit for procedure code 99188 was increased to 6 per calendar year to align with the limitation for procedure code D1206.

DISCUSSION:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommend that children up to the age of 21 receive TFV treatments (http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/G_Periodicity.pdf).

The Department supports the AAP's and the AAPD's recommendations regarding the application of TFV to beneficiaries under 21 years of age, as reflected in the Department's dental periodicity schedule (<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/MAB2023092801.pdf>).

To ensure that TFV is widely administered to MA beneficiaries and eliminate potential barriers, the Department is removing the requirement that the physician or CRNP who provides TVF complete an approved TFV training and submit a certification to the Department.

PROCEDURE:

The Department encourages, but does not require, physicians, PAs, and CRNPs who provide TFV to be certified through the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's no cost Smiles for Life continuing medical education course (<http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org>, Course 6 - Fluoride Varnish).

Providers should refer to this bulletin, as well as the PROMISe™ Provider Handbook and Billing Guides that can be found on the Department's website at: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/for-providers/promise/promise-provider-handbooks-guides.html>.

The MA Program Outpatient Fee Schedule reflects the limitations described above. Providers may view the MA Program Outpatient Fee Schedule on the Department's website at: <https://www.humanservices.state.pa.us/outpatientfeeschedule>.

RESOURCES:

The Department's "Dental Care Provider Information" webpage –

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/for-providers/ma-for-providers/dental-care-provider-information.html>

MA Bulletin 09-10-08, titled “Application of Topical Fluoride Varnish by Physicians and CRNPs” – https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/d_004731.pdf

MA Bulletin 09-15-14, titled, “Procedure Code Changes for Application of Topical Fluoride Varnish by Physicians and CRNPs” – https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/c_207464.pdf

MA Bulletin 09-16-10, titled “Required Training for the Application of Topical Fluoride Varnish” – https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/c_222718.pdf

MA Bulletin 99-22-05, titled “2022 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Updates and Other Procedure Code Changes” – <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/MAB2022082602.pdf>

MA Bulletin 99-23-09, titled “2023 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Updates and Other Procedure Code Changes” – <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omap/MAB2023083101.pdf>

SUPERSEDED BULLETINS:

This MA Bulletin supersedes, in part, MA Bulletin 09-10-08, to the extent it addresses TFV procedure codes and limits that are no longer in effect and provides for required TVF training. All other information and guidance remain in effect.

This MA Bulletin supersedes, in part, the provisions in MA Bulletin 09-16-10 that provide for required TFV training.