

New Billable Service for Medicaid Patients

Infant Oral Health and How to Use Fluoride Varnish (And How to Successfully Code and Bill for this New Service!)

CTAAP 2010 Teleconference Program

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Continuing Medical Education Program

Thursday, January 21st 12:10PM

Connecticut has recently implemented a new infant oral health program called the ABC Program (Access for Baby Care to Dental Examinations and Fluoride Varnish). This program is designed specifically for children who may have an increased risk for developing dental decay (caries) who are covered by the HUSKY Program. The ABC Program has been developed and piloted in other states and has demonstrated promising results for decreasing the occurrence of early childhood tooth decay. The program incorporates oral health counseling, oral health examination and fluoride varnish application.

This course will consist of a didactic module that will instruct primary care providers on how to assess children for caries risk, the core educational messages to promote good oral health, and what to look for when performing an oral examination. The methods to be employed when applying topical fluoride varnish will also be discussed and a video demonstration is included.

Specifically, participants taking this course will be able to:

- Recognize dental decay and its sequelae;
- Understand the etiology of dental decay;
- Screen children for dental decay;
- Educate parents about how to prevent dental decay;
- Understand when and how to use fluoride varnish to prevent dental decay and;
- Know when to refer children to the dentist.

New codes have been added to the Medicaid fee schedule specifically for this program to enable physicians to bill for oral evaluation, counseling and application of fluoride varnish. **Only physicians, APRNs, and physician's assistants who have taken this course are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for the services delivered.** This course is also intended for other medical staff, such as nurses, who under the supervision of a trained physician may perform patient education and fluoride varnish application.

Speaker: *Joanna Douglass BDS, DDS*, is an associate professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Connecticut. She has published extensively on the oral health of pre-school children and has developed and presented education programs both locally and nationally to educate non-dental health providers about oral health.

For a registration form or more information on this program, telephone 860-977-3430 or e-mail tracey.ctaap@gmail.com.

CME Credits for Physicians

- CME Credit has been approved by Norwalk Hospital. Norwalk Hospital is accredited by the CT Medical Society to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. Norwalk Hospital designates this continuing medical education activity for 1 credit hour in Category 1 of the Physicians Recognition award of the AMA.

Continuing Education Requirements for Nurses

- The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) will accept documentation of participation in the teleconference as meeting continuing education requirements toward recertification.
- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) will accept documentation of participation in this teleconference as meeting continuing education requirements for certified nurses. The credit hours will transfer equally. CTAAP will provide verification of participation in letter form to the nurse. Nurses must submit the proper paperwork to the ANCC for approval.