

Illinois Chapter

INCORPORATED IN ILLINOIS

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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January 10, 2024

Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination

Division of Medical Programs

Healthcare and Family Services

201 South Grand Avenue East

Springfield, IL 62763-0001

Re: Proposed changes in methods and standards for establishing medical assistance payment rates for fluoride varnish application

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) is in support of the proposed changes in reimbursement methods and standards for applying medical fluoride varnish to children in Illinois.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood and compromises the health, development, and quality of life of children, affecting such factors as eating, sleeping, self-esteem, speech development, and school performance. The expansion of the age for reimbursement of fluoride varnish application from 3 years of age to 6 years of age not only aligns with the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures Guidelines and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations but will help to ensure more of Illinois' children have access to this needed intervention. Additionally, adjustments to the reimbursement rate for fluoride varnish applications performed by medical providers from \$26.00 to \$27.30 further assists pediatricians in maximizing the use of this important prevention tool. With this change, we would like to request that the department update the medical fluoride varnish application reimbursement code from CDT code D1206 to CPT code 99188 to align with [national standards](#).

We appreciate the department's thoughtful consideration in advancing the oral health of children and we are grateful for your continued partnership in the health and well-being of children and families in our state.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Margaret Scotellaro in black ink.

Margaret Scotellaro, MD, FAAP
President

Handwritten signature of Jennie Pinkwater in black ink.

Jennie Pinkwater, MNM
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Lizzy Whitehorn - Director of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services