

Cavity Free in Mississippi!

Oral Evaluation and Fluoride Varnish

What is Cavity Free in Mississippi?

Tooth decay (dental caries) affects more children than any other chronic childhood disease, in spite of the fact that it is preventable. The medical office is an ideal place to deliver a set of preventive dental services which will help to reduce decay rates in children, since children are seen frequently in primary care offices for Well Child visits. Cavity Free in Mississippi is a collaborative effort between the Mississippi State Department of Health's Office of Oral Health and medical providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants) focusing on children who have limited or no access to a dental provider.

How Does the Program Work?

Medicaid-accepting medical providers who sign up for the program will be trained by the Regional Oral Health Consultants (ROHCs) in their respective region where underserved populations may live. Medical providers will receive training on how to perform an oral health evaluation, benefits and application of fluoride varnish, and caregiver education on good oral hygiene practices. Medical providers will also receive training on billing/coding for services rendered and supplies and materials needed in order to screen and apply fluoride varnish. Referral networks will be provided in order to ensure referral to dental offices and the establishment of a dental home.

Who Are the Trainers?

The Regional Oral Health Consultants (ROHCs) with the Mississippi State Department of Health's Office of Oral Health are licensed, registered dental hygienists in Mississippi who provide oral health education to health department staff, health professionals and the public. They enable collaborative partners to plan and implement effective oral health prevention strategies such as the "Make a Child's Smile" fluoride varnish program, Cavity Free Kids training, and preventive dental sealant programs.

What Are the Benefits?

Medical providers are a part of the oral health workforce team who address significant public health issues - dental caries, increased oral health care access, and improved oral-systemic health across the lifespan of patients. Medical providers also have the potential to bill for both oral evaluation and fluoride varnish application in children 0 to 36 months of age.

How Do I Get Involved?

For program enrollment contact:
Mississippi State Department of Health
Office of Oral Health
Email: Veronica.Gates@msdh.ms.gov
Phone: (601)206-1597
Fax #: (601)991-9963



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