

# Fluoride Refocus

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# Is it "Third Time's a Charm?" or "Three Strikes You're Out?"



## Fluoride Timeline

- Spring 2018 Initial Roll-Out
- Spring 2021 Fluoride Refocus
- Fall 2022 A New Voice and A New Plan



## PDSA - Spring 2018

- · Plan: Implement Fluoride Varnish at All Sites
- · Do:
  - · All staff communication
  - · Provider training Varnish application
  - · Information sheet and instructions formatted and printed
  - Varnish ordered

What is missing from the cycle?

Lack of study, action, follow-up, and accountability



## PDSA - Spring 2021

- · Plan: Fluoride Refocus
- · Do:
  - Site Specific Lunch and Learns
  - Newsletter communication
  - Personalized YouTube provider training video with CMC physician
  - · Report on success of Simpsonville office with past implementation
  - · Narrowed patient population to Medicaid patients 12 months 6 years
- · Study:
  - Shared report with providers after 3 months of applications, listed top 3 performers and honorable mentions (providers starting for the 1st time)
  - · Picked a positive way to report numbers to entire staff...



## Fluoride

Number of Applications 110

January - March 2021

**152** 

April - June 2021







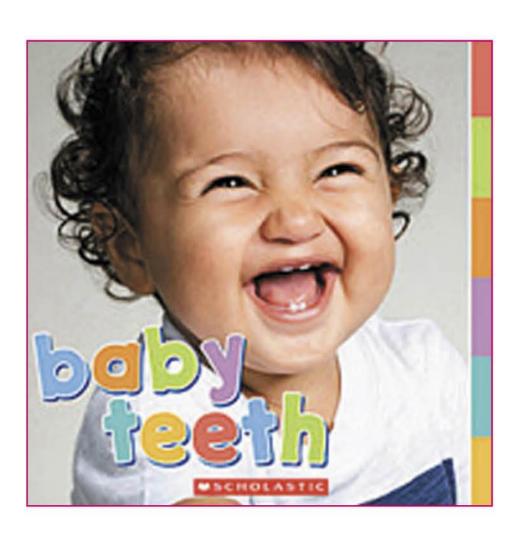
### PDSA - Fall 2022

- · Plan: Increase fluoride varnish applications
- · Do:
  - New Voices
    - FT Director of Quality, New QI Clinical Consultant
    - All Staff Meeting
  - New Implementation Idea
    - Partnering with Reach Out and Read
  - New Reporting Strategy
    - Monthly Data Sharing
  - New Site Champions and Site Visits



## New Implementation Strategy:

- 1) Reach Out and Read "Baby Teeth" book at 12 month visit
- 2) Pediatric Dentists Resource List
- 3) Fluoride Varnish Information







### Information for Parents: Fluoride Varnish

### Why do we recommend putting fluoride varnish on children's teeth?

Tooth decay is one of the most common preventable diseases seen in children. Children as young as 12 to 18 months can get cavities. Cavities in baby teeth can cause pain and even prevent children from being able to eat, speak, sleep, and learn properly. It is also recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### What is fluoride varnish?

Fluoride varnish is a temporary protective coating that is painted on teeth to help prevent new cavities and to help stop cavities that have already started.

### Is fluoride varnish safe?

Yes, fluoride varnish can be used on babies from the time they have their first teeth. Only a very small amount of fluoride varnish is used. This method of providing fluoride to teeth has been used in Europe for more than 25 years.

### How is it put on the teeth?

The varnish is painted on the teeth. It is quick and easy to apply and does not have a bad taste. There is no pain, but your child may cry just because babies and children do not like having things put in their mouths.

### How long does the fluoride last?

The fluoride coating will work best if it is painted on the teeth 3 to 4 times per year.



## Five Years of Fluoride



2018

515 **Applications** 

2019

427

**Applications** 

2020

575 Applications

2021

827 Applications

2022

Total applications: 2,877



