



**Texas Health Steps  
(THSteps) Checkup  
Components: Oral  
Evaluation and  
Fluoride Varnish  
(OEFV)**

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**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

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# 1. Oral Evaluation and Fluoride Varnish Overview

## Who is Eligible to Provide the OEFV Service:

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) enrolled physicians, physician assistants (PA) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) may provide OEFV services and submit claims for reimbursement. Before providing any OEFV services Texas Medicaid medical providers must:

- Be enrolled in Texas Health Steps
- Take OEFV training required and offered by the Texas Health Steps dental program
- Complete and submit an OEFV Certification Request Form and continuing education certificate to THSteps

NOTE: TMHP will attach the OEFV certification code 970 to the provider's profile in the Medicaid system.

# 2. Oral Evaluation and Fluoride Varnish Components

The Texas Health Steps OEFV service includes four components:

- Intermediate oral evaluation
- Fluoride varnish application
- Dental anticipatory guidance
- Referral to establish a dental home

# 3. Intermediate Oral Evaluation

## Intermediate Oral Evaluation

The intermediate oral evaluation must be performed by a certified physician, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) or physician assistant (PA) during a THSteps age appropriate preventive medical checkup. It involves a thorough evaluation of the child's mouth.

- Front office/support staff:
  - Component is not applicable for front office/support staff
- Clinical staff:
  - Component is not applicable for completion by clinical staff
  - Prep patient for OEFV service
  - Obtain and set up needed supplies

- Provider:
  - Retract or lift child's lips
  - Examine all soft tissues of the mouth
  - Observe for presence of plaque and tooth defects
  - Observe for white spots – early signs of decay
  - Observe brown spots – later signs of decay
  - Observe for soft brown or black collar of decay surrounding tooth – moderate to severe decay
  - Document oral exam findings in the child's medical record

## 4. Fluoride Varnish Application

### Fluoride Varnish Application:

Fluoride varnish is a topical 5 percent sodium fluoride treatment applied to teeth surfaces with a small applicator brush. It is available in yellow, white and clear preparations. A certified physician, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) or physician assistant (PA) may apply fluoride varnish. In addition, trained clinical staff may apply fluoride varnish under the supervision of the OEFV certified physician, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) or physician assistant (PA).

- Front office/support staff:
  - Component is not applicable for front office/support staff
- Clinical staff:
  - Obtain single-use vial fluoride varnish
  - Paint all tooth surfaces
  - Do not apply if no erupted teeth
  - Instruct parent/guardian not to brush child's teeth until following day
  - Instruct parent/guardian to avoid crunch foods until the following day
  - Document fluoride varnish application in child's medical record
- Provider:
  - Apply fluoride varnish or supervise application by trained clinical staff
  - Document fluoride varnish application in child's medical record

## 5. Anticipatory Guidance

### Anticipatory Guidance

Anticipatory guidance includes age appropriate education and counseling and is an important part of each OEFV service. Guidance on preventing oral disease, regardless of whether a child has erupted teeth is important. Anticipatory guidance should also include stressing the importance of establishing a dental home and making a dental appointment. Dental anticipatory guidance can be provided by the medical provider or trained clinical staff.

- Front office/support staff:
  - Component is not applicable for front office/support staff
- Clinical staff:
  - Provide dental anticipatory guidance
  - Instruct parent/guardian on importance of preventing oral disease
  - Utilize the THSteps Dental Anticipatory Guidance tool
  - Provide parent/guardian the THSteps "Keep Your Child Smiling" brochure
  - Document anticipatory guidance in the child's medical record
- Provider:
  - Provide dental anticipatory guidance or supervise trained clinical staff providing anticipatory guidance
  - Document anticipatory guidance in the child's medical record

## 6. Dental Referral

### Dental Referral

THSteps requires a referral to a dental home beginning when a child is 6 months of age regardless of whether teeth have erupted. A referral to establish a dental home is part of the OEFV service. All office team members can assist with this component of the OEFV service.

- Front office/support staff:
  - Provide list of Medicaid enrolled dental providers
  - If dental home is established remind patient/parent to keep all dental appointments with dental home
- Clinical staff:
  - Provide list of Medicaid enrolled dental providers
  - Instruct parent/patient on importance of establishing a main dental home
  - Provide referral to main dental home
  - Document referral in the child's medical record
  - If dental home is established remind patient/parent to keep all dental appointments with dental home
- Provider:
  - Complete referral to main dental home
  - Document referral in the child's medical record
  - If dental home is established remind patient/parent to keep all dental appointments with dental home

## References:

Refer to the THSteps [Oral Evaluation and Fluoride Varnish](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/health-services-providers/texas-health-steps/medical-providers/oral-evaluation-fluoride-varnish-medical-home) website for additional information or go to: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/health-services-providers/texas-health-steps/medical-providers/oral-evaluation-fluoride-varnish-medical-home>

Refer to the THSteps Dental Anticipatory tool on the [THSteps Catalog](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/health-services-providers/texas-health-steps/thsteps-catalog) or go to: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/health-services-providers/texas-health-steps/thsteps-catalog>

Refer to the [Texas Health Steps Periodicity Schedule](https://www.onlineordersff.com/images/pdfs/26027.pdf) for additional information or go to <https://www.onlineordersff.com/images/pdfs/26027.pdf>

Refer to the [Texas Health Steps Quick Reference Guide](https://www.onlineordersff.com/images/pdfs/15308.pdf) for additional information or go to <https://www.onlineordersff.com/images/pdfs/15308.pdf>

Refer to the [Texas Health Steps](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/health-services-providers/texas-health-steps) web site or go to: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/health-services-providers/texas-health-steps>

Refer to the [Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual](https://www.tmhp.com/resources/provider-manuals/tmppm) or go to: <https://www.tmhp.com/resources/provider-manuals/tmppm>