



## Alabama Chapter

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Dear Alabama Chapter-AAP member:

After a year of collaboration and planning, the Alabama Chapter-AAP, together with the Alabama Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (through our oral health representative, Dr. Richard Simpson, DMD), has successfully worked with the Alabama Medicaid Agency to add coverage of oral health risk assessment and fluoride varnishing in the pediatric medical home for children from six months to three years of age. Effective January 2, 2009, Medicaid will pay Patient 1st providers who have been trained and certified in oral health risk assessment for dental codes D0145 (oral exam <3 years old, counseling) and D1206 (topical fluoride application) under certain limitations.

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Medicaid primary care providers, along with any clinical staff in their offices who will be applying the varnishes and performing risk assessments, will have to complete the modified AAP "The Oral Health Risk Assessment Training Program for Pediatricians and Other Child Health Professionals" and pass the post-test in the module. Clinical staff can perform and bill for the procedure only if the Medicaid provider (MD, DO, PA, CRNP) has been trained and certified as well. The training includes oral health risk assessment, education on performing anticipatory guidance/counseling, demonstration of fluoride varnish application, and information on recommendations for a dental home, typically by age one. Pediatricians and their clinical staff who pass the post-test will be certified by Medicaid as *1<sup>st</sup> Look Providers*.

More than 51 pediatricians have already been certified at the training held at the Annual Meeting in September. The first training in 2009 will be held on Friday, April 3, 2009 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the 2009 Spring Meeting and Pediatric Update (April 2 – 5, 2009 at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Baytowne Conference Center in Destin). Registration materials will be coming your way in January. Other regional trainings will follow. Meanwhile, please look for specific details on the program's requirements, which will be posted in the next few days on the Agency's web site at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

For your convenience, a list of fluoride varnish vendors has been posted on the Chapter web site at [www.alchapaap.org](http://www.alchapaap.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Chapter office at 334-954-2543 or [lchampionaap@knology.net](mailto:lchampionaap@knology.net).

Sincerely,

A.Z. Holloway, MD, FAAP  
President