Please read the DQA Measures User Guide prior to implementing this measure.

DQA Measure Technical Specifications: Administrative Claims-Based Measures

Prevention: Topical Fluoride for Children at Elevated Caries Risk, Dental or Oral Health Services

"Dental" OR "Oral Health" Services

**Description:** Percentage of children aged 1–21 years who are at "elevated" risk (i.e. “moderate” or “high”) who received at least 2 topical fluoride applications as dental OR oral health services within the reporting year

**Numerator:** Unduplicated number of children at “elevated” risk (i.e. “moderate” or “high”) who received at least 2 topical fluoride applications as dental OR oral health services

**Denominator:** Unduplicated number of children aged 1–21 years at "elevated" risk (i.e. “moderate” or “high”)

**Rate:** NUM/DEN

**Rationale:** Dental caries is the most common chronic disease in children in the United States (1). For 2015–2016, prevalence of total caries (untreated and treated) was 45.8% and untreated caries was 13.0% among youth aged 2–19 years (2). Identifying caries early is important to reverse the disease process, prevent progression of caries, and reduce incidence of future lesions. In 2014, 52% of all children and 60% of poor children (FPL<100%) did not have a dental visit during the year (3). Evidence-based Clinical Recommendations suggest that topical fluoride should be applied at least every three to six months in children at elevated risk for caries (4).

**Rationale for "Dental or Oral Health" Services Specification:**

Apart from routine quality reporting, researchers and policy makers may wish to seek additional information regarding whether certain services were provided to a population. In such cases a “dental OR oral health” specification of the measure may be applicable. The “dental OR oral health” measure is NOT a sum of the “dental” and “oral health” Topical Fluoride measures but represents the unduplicated count of children who received topical fluoride as a dental or oral health service. The DQA Measures User Guide provides additional information on categorization of “dental” and “oral health” services.

**Note:** Not all state Medicaid programs reimburse for “oral health” services up to age 21. Age stratifications may be used when interpreting this measure.


Institute of Medicine Aim: Equity, Effectiveness

National Quality Strategy Priority: Health and Well-Being

Level of Aggregation: Health Plan/Program

Improvement Noted As: This measure should be interpreted in conjunction with the DQA measures: (1) Topical Fluoride for Children at Elevated Caries Risk, Dental Services (NQF#2528) and (2) Topical Fluoride for Children at Elevated Caries Risk, Oral Health Services. In general, a higher percentage of children at elevated caries risk who receive at least two topical fluoride applications during the reporting year indicates better performance.2

Data Required: Administrative enrollment and claims data; single year for measurement (prior 3 years needed for risk determination). When using claims data to determine service receipt, include both paid and unpaid claims (including pending, suspended, and denied claims).

Measure purpose: Examples of questions that can be answered through this measure at each level of aggregation:

1. What percentage of children at elevated risk for dental caries receive at least 2 topical fluoride applications as dental or oral health services during the reporting period?
2. Over time, is the percentage of children who receive at least 2 topical fluoride applications as dental or oral health services stable, increasing, or decreasing?

Applicable Stratification Variables (Optional: Contact Program Official to determine reporting requirements)

1. Age (e.g., 1-2; 3-5; 6-7; 8-9; 10-11; 12-14; 15-18; 19-20)
2. Payer Type (e.g., Medicaid; CHIP; private commercial benefit programs)
3. Program/Plan Type (e.g., traditional FFS; PPO; prepaid dental/DHMO)
4. Geographic Location (e.g., rural; suburban; urban)
5. Race
6. Ethnicity
7. Socioeconomic Status (e.g., premium or income category)

Measure Limitations:
- Calls for the documentation of at least two instances (on different dates of service) of any combination of two fluoride specific CDT codes, D1206 and D1208. D1206 refers to professionally applied fluoride varnish and D1208 is any topical fluoride product including supplements.
- Some codes (i.e., a few endodontic codes) included to identify children at elevated risk may also be reported for instances such as trauma and may contribute to some overestimation of children at elevated risk.
- Since the “elevated risk” determination requires an evaluation (to record a CDT risk code) or a treatment visit (to record a CDT treatment code), children who are enrolled but do not have a visit in the reporting year or a treatment visit in any of the prior three years will not have sufficient information to be included in the measure. While this is a limitation, the intent of this PROCESS OF CARE measure is to include the service in the numerator.” NQMC Measure Domain Definitions. Available at: https://www.ahrq.gov/gam/summaries/domain-definitions/index.html. Accessed April 2nd, 2019

2 Evidence-based guidelines suggest that at-risk children benefit from topical fluoride applications applied at least every 3-6 months.
seek to understand whether children who can be positively identified as being at elevated risk receive the recommended preventive services.

**Topical Fluoride (Dental or Oral Health Services) Calculation for Children at Elevated Caries Risk**

1. Check if the subject meets age criteria at the last day of the reporting year:\(^3\)
   a. If child is \(\geq 1\) and \(< 21\),\(^4\) then proceed to next step.
   b. If age criteria are not met or there are missing or invalid field codes (e.g., date of birth), then **STOP** processing. This enrollee does not get counted.

2. Check if subject is continuously enrolled for the reporting year (12 months) with a gap of no more than 31 days (one month gap for programs that determine eligibility on a monthly basis):\(^5\)
   a. If subject meets continuous enrollment criterion, then proceed to next step.
   b. If subject does not meet enrollment criterion, then **STOP** processing. This enrollee does not get counted.

**YOU NOW HAVE THE COUNT OF THOSE WHO MEET THE AGE AND ENROLLMENT CRITERIA**

3. Check if subject is at “elevated risk”:
   a. If subject meets ANY of the following criteria, then include in denominator:
      i. the subject has a CDT Code among those in Table 1 in the reporting year, **OR**
      ii. the subject has a CDT Code among those in Table 1 in any of the three years prior to the reporting year, **(NOTE: The subject does not need to be enrolled in any of the prior three years for the denominator enrollment criteria; this is a “look back” for subjects who do have claims experience in any of the prior three years.)** **OR**
      iii. the subject has a visit with a CDT code = (D0602 or D0603) in the reporting year.
   b. If the subject does not meet any of the above criteria for elevated risk, then **STOP** processing. This enrollee will not be included in the measure denominator.

**YOU NOW HAVE THE DENOMINATOR (DEN): Subjects who are at “elevated risk”**

4. Check if subject received at least two fluoride applications as **dental or oral health services** during the reporting year – at least two unique dates of service when topical fluoride was provided. Service provided on each date of service should satisfy the following criteria:
   a. If [SERVICE CODE] = CDT D1206 or D1208,\(^6\) **AND**

---

3 Medicaid/CHIP programs should exclude those individuals who do not qualify for dental benefits. The exclusion criteria should be reported along with the number and percentage of members excluded.

4 **Age:** Medicaid/CHIP programs use under age 21\((< 21)\) as upper bound of age range; Exchange quality reporting use under age 19 \((< 19)\) as the upper bound of the age range; other programs check with program officials. The age criteria should be reported with the measure score.

5 Enrollment in “same” plan vs. “any” plan: At the state program level (e.g., Medicaid/CHIP) a criterion of “any” plan applies versus at the health plan (e.g., MCO) level a criterion of “same” plan applies. The criterion used should be reported with the measure score. While this prevents direct aggregation of results from plan to program, each entity is given due credit for the population it serves. Thus, states with multiple MCOs should not merely “add up” the plan level scores but should calculate the state score from their database to allow inclusion of individuals who may be continuously enrolled but might have switched plans in the interim.

6 **Topical Fluoride codes:** For reporting years prior to 2013, use CDT codes D1203 or D1204 or D1206.
b. If [RENDERING PROVIDER TAXONOMY] code is *any* valid NUCC maintained Provider Taxonomy Code, then include in numerator; STOP processing.

c. If both a AND b are not met, then the service was not a “dental or oral health” service; STOP processing. This enrollee is already included in the denominator but will not be included in the numerator.

**Note 1:** Some states may use codes other than CDT codes to reimburse for fluoride. These codes should be included in the [SERVICE CODE] codes in addition to D1206 and D1208.

**Note 2:** No more than one fluoride application can be counted for the same member on the same date of service.

**Note 3:** In this step, all claims with missing or invalid SERVICE CODE or with missing or invalid NUCC maintained Provider Taxonomy Codes should be excluded.

YOU NOW HAVE NUMERATOR (NUM) COUNT: Subjects at “elevated risk” who received at least two fluoride applications as dental or oral health services

5. Report
   a. Unduplicated number of subjects in numerator
   b. Unduplicated number of subjects in denominator
   c. Measure rate (NUM/DEN)
   d. Rate stratified by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D1352</th>
<th>D2392</th>
<th>D2610</th>
<th>D2710</th>
<th>D2782</th>
<th>D2940</th>
<th>D3330</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1354</td>
<td>D2393</td>
<td>D2620</td>
<td>D2712</td>
<td>D2783</td>
<td>D2941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2140</td>
<td>D2394</td>
<td>D2630</td>
<td>D2720</td>
<td>D2790</td>
<td>D2950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2150</td>
<td>D2410</td>
<td>D2642</td>
<td>D2721</td>
<td>D2791</td>
<td>D3110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2160</td>
<td>D2420</td>
<td>D2643</td>
<td>D2722</td>
<td>D2792</td>
<td>D3120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2161</td>
<td>D2430</td>
<td>D2644</td>
<td>D2740</td>
<td>D2794</td>
<td>D3220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2330</td>
<td>D2510</td>
<td>D2650</td>
<td>D2750</td>
<td>D2799</td>
<td>D3221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2331</td>
<td>D2520</td>
<td>D2651</td>
<td>D2751</td>
<td>D2930</td>
<td>D3222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2332</td>
<td>D2530</td>
<td>D2652</td>
<td>D2752</td>
<td>D2931</td>
<td>D3230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2335</td>
<td>D2542</td>
<td>D2662</td>
<td>D2753</td>
<td>D2932</td>
<td>D3240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2390</td>
<td>D2543</td>
<td>D2663</td>
<td>D2780</td>
<td>D2933</td>
<td>D3310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2391</td>
<td>D2544</td>
<td>D2664</td>
<td>D2781</td>
<td>D2934</td>
<td>D3320</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Identifying “dental” or “oral health” services:** Programs and plans that do not use standard NUCC maintained provider taxonomy codes should use a valid mapping to identify providers whose services would be categorized as “dental” or “oral health” services.

**Services provided by medical providers:** In some instances, CPT or other codes are used for reimbursement of oral health services (e.g., medical primary care providers providing oral evaluation, risk assessment, anticipatory guidance or fluoride varnish). Details available at [AAP Table]. For such states these additional codes must be considered.
*** Note: Reliability of the measure score depends on the quality of the data that are used to calculate the measure. The percentages of missing and invalid data for these data elements must be investigated prior to measurement. Data elements with high rates of missing or invalid data will adversely affect the subsequent counts that are recorded. For example, records with missing or invalid SERVICE CODE to identify topical fluoride may be counted in the denominator but not in the numerator. These records are assumed to not have had a qualifying service. In this case, a low quality data set will result in a low measure score and will not be reliable.***
Check age eligibility

If age eligible:

- Qualifying age at last day of reporting year?
  - Yes
  - Continuously enrolled for the reporting year (12 months) with a gap of no more than 31 days?
    - Yes
    - all enrollees who meet the age and enrollment criteria
    - Elevated risk?
      - Yes
      - DEN: enrollees who are at elevated risk

- Medicaid/CHIP use < 21; Exchange plans use < 19; others consult program officials.

All enrollees who meet the age and enrollment criteria

- Child will be counted if any one of the following are present:
  1. CDT code for moderate or high risk in the reporting year
  2. Treatment code from Table 1 in reporting year
  3. Treatment code from Table 1 in any one of the prior three years.
  Continuity of enrollment not required in prior years.

NC: Not Counted

#1 Date of Service:
Fluoride as a dental or oral health service?

Yes

#2 Date of Service:
Fluoride as a dental or oral health service?

Yes

NUM: enrollees at elevated risk who received at least 2 fluoride applications as a dental or oral health service

STOP
DQA Measure TFL-CH-A(D/OH), Dental or Oral Health Services
Effective January 1, 2021

2021 American Dental Association on behalf of the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) ©. All rights reserved. Use by individuals or other entities for purposes consistent with the DQA’s mission and that is not for commercial or other direct revenue generating purposes is permitted without charge.

Dental Quality Alliance Measures (Measures) and related data specifications, developed by the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA), are intended to facilitate quality improvement activities. These Measures are intended to assist stakeholders in enhancing quality of care. These performance Measures are not clinical guidelines and do not establish a standard of care. The DQA has not tested its Measures for all potential applications. Measures are subject to review and may be revised or rescinded at any time by the DQA. The Measures may not be altered without the prior written approval of the DQA. The DQA shall be acknowledged as the measure steward in any and all references to the measure. Measures developed by the DQA, while copyrighted, can be reproduced and distributed, without modification, for noncommercial purposes. Commercial use is defined as the sale, license, or distribution of the Measures for commercial gain, or incorporation of the Measures into a product or service that is sold, licensed or distributed for commercial gain. Commercial uses of the Measures require a license agreement between the user and DQA. Neither the DQA nor its members shall be responsible for any use of these Measures.

THE MEASURES ARE PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND

Limited proprietary coding is contained in the Measure specifications for convenience.

For Proprietary Codes:
The code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature is published in Current Dental Terminology (CDT), Copyright © 2020 American Dental Association (ADA). All rights reserved.

This material contains National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) Health Care Provider Taxonomy codes (http://www.nucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=125). Copyright © 2020 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

Users of the proprietary code sets should obtain all necessary licenses from the owners of these code sets. The DQA, American Dental Association (ADA), and its members disclaim all liability for use or accuracy of any terminologies or other coding contained in the specifications.

THE SPECIFICATIONS ARE PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND.