



Australian Government

HLTOHC006 Apply fluoride varnish

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version was released in <i>HLT Health Training Package release 2.0</i> and meets the requirements of the 2012 Standards for Training Packages. Significant changes to the elements and performance criteria. Removed pre-requisite. New evidence requirements for assessment including volume and frequency requirements.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required by practitioners working specifically in rural, remote and isolated areas and/or facilities that have knowledge and experience in oral health care, to apply fluoride varnish in line with prescribed treatment as outlined in an individualised oral health care plan and in accordance with relevant jurisdictional, legislative and regulatory requirements.

The unit applies to registered Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, registered nurses and registered enrolled nurses in primary health care settings in rural, remote and isolated areas where the work roles may require the application of fluoride varnish.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian/New Zealand standards for maintaining infection control, and industry codes of practice.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements define the essential outcomes

Performance criteria specify the level of performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element

1. Prepare for the application of fluoride varnish

1.1 Check scope of own work role to ensure it includes application of fluoride varnish as advised by an authorised oral health practitioner in an individualised oral health care plan

1.2 Confirm the patient's oral health care plan, developed by an oral health practitioner, specifically includes the application of fluoride varnish and that there are no

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contraindications to this procedure

1.3 Confirm consent

1.4 Explain fluoride varnish application procedure to patient and/or family/carer and check their understanding of the benefits of fluoride varnish, need for regular applications, and the risks associated with fluoride varnish

1.5 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of fluoride varnish over other procedures

1.6 Prepare fluoride varnish kit and personal protective equipment (PPE) as required

2. Apply fluoride varnish to teeth

2.1 Position the patient for safety and comfort

2.2 Use PPE in accordance with infection control policies and procedures throughout procedure

2.3 Prepare teeth for fluoride varnish application in accordance with product instructions and application protocols

2.4 Dispense appropriate amount of fluoride varnish

2.5 Apply fluoride varnish in correct manner with applicator to teeth as recommended in the oral health care plan

3. Provide information to patient and/or family/carer about post-application advice and follow up requirements

3.1 Advise patient and/or family/carer of the importance of following instructions and recommended guidelines for eating, drinking fluids and brushing/cleaning teeth following fluoride varnish application

3.2 Inform patient and/or family/carer of any expected short term changes in tooth appearance or sensation, including colour, feel or taste

3.3 Provide post-application information to patient and/or family/carer in both verbal and written or picture formats as appropriate to their individual needs or preferences

3.4 Ensure patient and/or family/carer understand oral health practitioner's recommended schedule for ongoing application in line with their individualised oral health

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

Elements define the essential outcomes

Performance criteria specify the level of performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element care plan

4. Record and document information about the application

4.1 Record and document details of the application undertaken, information provided and any concerns arising during contact with patient and/or family/carer
4.2 Use relevant technology to complete documentation according to organisation's policies and procedures

Foundation Skills

The Foundation Skills describe those required skills (language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills) that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>

Assessment Requirements for HLTOHC006 Apply fluoride varnish

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the job role. There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- applied fluoride varnish safely and effectively to 5 people in line with product guidelines, jurisdictional legislation and regulation relating to fluoride schedule, supply, authorisation and disposal, including:
 - prepared self and the client using personal protective equipment against risks associated with the use of fluoride varnish
 - identified and responded to risks associated with applying fluoride varnish
 - evaluated own capabilities in the application of fluoride varnish skills

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the work role. This includes knowledge of:

- fluoride varnish refers to:
 - a highly concentrated form of fluoride which is applied to tooth's surface as a type of topical fluoride therapy. may be applied to enamel, dentine or cementum of tooth and can be used to help prevent decay, remineralise tooth surface and treat dentine hypersensitivity
 - not permanent varnish but due to adherent nature will stay in contact with tooth surface for several hours

- accessibility to services, including availability of private and public oral health services and eligibility for services
- awareness of relevant jurisdictional legislation and regulation relating to fluoride, including schedule, supply, authorisation and disposal
- application of fluoride varnish in the correct manner refers to:
 - keeping client mouth open
 - maintaining moisture control
 - retracting lip and cheek, wiping and applying a thin layer of varnish to the teeth as prescribed in the oral health care plan
 - ensuring varnish is applied without contact with other tissues
 - never dispensing product in excess to that stated in the oral health care plan
- how to reflect on own level of knowledge to achieve desirable outcomes and maintain own capabilities
- awareness of risks associated with fluoride varnish
- basic anatomy and physiology underpinning oral health and hygiene
- causes and prevention of common dental diseases especially dental caries
- common equipment utilised in the application of fluoride
- effective self-care practices for oral health, including cause, control and prevention of dental plaque
- emergency procedures that may be required during the application of fluoride varnish
- factors that impact on oral health, including:
 - abuse (neglect of oral health needs)
 - access to dental and health services
 - alcohol, licit and illicit drugs and substances over the counter and herbal treatments
 - bacteria in dental plaque
 - correct infant feeding practices
 - damage from habitual grinding of teeth
 - diet and nutrition, including fluids and excessive intake of sugar
 - fluoride
 - general health and wellbeing
 - immunosuppressant conditions, HIV, chemotherapy and radiation
 - injury to mouth, such as from a seizure
 - medical history
 - oral piercings
 - patient oral health information
 - presence of plaque and calculus
 - psychological issues, such as fear of being seen without dentures or persisting with ill-fitting dentures for satisfaction of others
 - salivary function
 - smoking
 - social and cultural determinants of health

- susceptible tooth surfaces
- transmission of bacteria particularly from family/carer to child
- teeth misalignment causing trauma to teeth
- trauma to the mouth as a result of an accident
- work health and safety (WHS) issues and procedures, including those related to manual handling of fluoride varnish and personal safety and security risks associated with provision of fluoride varnish application
- own work role and responsibilities in the application of fluoride varnish
- principles and practices of confidentiality, privacy and consent of fluoride treatment
- evaluation criteria for monitoring effectiveness of fluoride varnish application program
- role of significant others in supporting patient's oral health care needs
- safe application of fluoride varnish
- safe storage of products
- relationship between oral health and general health

Assessment Conditions

Skills and knowledge must be demonstrated in the workplace with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations cannot be provided in the workplace or may occur only rarely.

The following aspect of the performance evidence must have been demonstrated using simulation prior to demonstration in the workplace or with members of the general public

- apply fluoride varnish safely and effectively

Note: Where state/territory legislation prevents practice in the workplace, simulated assessment environments may only be used in place of workplace assessment.

The following conditions must be met for this unit

- use of suitable equipment and resources, including:
 - appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - oral hygiene self-care aids and technique
 - placebo fluoride varnish
 - specialised equipment utilised in the application of fluoride varnish
 - modelling of industry operating conditions, including access to people for the simulated scenarios

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Links

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