



Australian Government

HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish

Release: 3

HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 3	Supersedes and is equivalent to Release 2 HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish. Updated: Mapping details
Release 2	Supersedes and is equivalent to Release 1 HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish. Updated: Mapping details and minor corrections
Release 1	HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish supersedes and is equivalent to HLTOHC006 Apply fluoride varnish.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required by practitioners and dental assistants typically working in rural, remote and isolated areas 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 dental assistants, 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 standards for maintaining infection control, and industry codes of practice.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Nil

Unit Sector

Oral Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes

Performance criteria describe the 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 oral health care plan, developed by an oral health practitioner, specifically includes the application of fluoride varnish and that there are no contraindications to this procedure.
- 1.3. Explain fluoride varnish application procedure to patient and family or carer and check their understanding of the benefits of fluoride varnish, need for regular applications, and the risks associated with fluoride varnish.
- 1.4. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of fluoride varnish over other procedures.
- 1.5. Confirm patient consent.
- 1.6. Prepare fluoride varnish kit and personal protective equipment (PPE) as required by patient, practitioner and self.

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 family or carer about post-application advice and follow up requirements.

- 3.1. Advise patient, family or carer of the importance of following instructions and recommended guidelines for eating, drinking fluids and brushing and cleaning teeth following fluoride varnish application.
- 3.2. Inform patient and family or 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 family or carer in both verbal and written or picture formats as

required by their individual needs or preferences.

- 3.4. Ensure patient and family or carer understand oral health practitioner's recommended schedule for ongoing application in line with their individualised oral health 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 family or carer.
 - 4.2. Use relevant technology to complete documentation according to organisational policies and procedures.

Foundation Skills

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

Unit Mapping Information

HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish supersedes and is equivalent to HLTOHC006 Apply fluoride varnish.

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 HLTOHC011 Apply fluoride varnish

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Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- apply fluoride varnish safely and effectively to at least five people in line with product guidelines, jurisdictional legislation and regulation relating to fluoride schedule, supply, authorisation and disposal, including:
 - preparing self and the patient using personal protective equipment against risks associated with the use of fluoride varnish
 - identifying and responding to risks associated with applying fluoride varnish.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- characteristics and uses of fluoride varnish including:
 - topical fluoride therapy for enamel, dentine or cementum of tooth
 - non-permanent, but adherent nature to stay in contact with tooth surface for several hours
 - use in prevention of decay
 - use in remineralising tooth surface
 - use in treating dentine hypersensitivity
 - risks associated with fluoride varnish

- 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
- processes for correct application of fluoride varnish:
 - 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
- techniques for reflecting on own level of skills and knowledge to achieve desirable outcomes and maintain own capabilities
- 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 including 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, including from a seizure
 - medical history
 - oral piercings
 - patient oral health information
 - presence of plaque and calculus
 - psychological issues, including 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 or 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
- current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) infection control and record keeping guidelines
- National and State or Territory infection control guidelines and procedures
- correct use of personal protective equipment
- 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
- organisational policies and procedures for documentation and reporting.

Assessment Conditions

Skills 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 or Territory legislation prevents practice in the workplace, simulated assessment environments may be used in place of workplace assessment.

Assessment must ensure:

- access to 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
- access to current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines and practice standards
- access to current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) infection control and record keeping guidelines
- access to National and State or Territory infection control guidelines and procedures
- modelling of industry operating conditions including access to people for simulations and scenarios in oral health care work

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations' requirements for assessors.

Links

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