



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

HLTOHC408A Apply fluoride varnish

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Descriptor

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required by practitioners working in specific rural, remote and isolated areas and/or facilities to apply fluoride varnish products as prescribed in individualised oral health care plans and where approved within their designated role

Application of the Unit

Application

This unit is intended to address skills and knowledge appropriate for health workers whose work roles may require the application of fluoride varnish in accordance with relevant jurisdictional, legislative and regulatory requirements

The unit applies to practitioners working in specific contexts, such as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health workers as well as nurses working in rural, remote and isolated areas

The work involves implementation of verbal or written individualised oral health care plans that have been prepared by, or under advice from, an appropriate registered oral health practitioner

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Pre-requisite

This unit must be assessed after achievement of:

- HLTIN301C Comply with infection control policies and procedures

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills

This unit contains Employability Skills

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements define the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

The Performance Criteria specify the level of performance required to demonstrate achievement of the Element. Terms in italics are elaborated in the Range Statement.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Prepare for and participate in the application of <i>fluoride varnish</i> | <p>1.1 Ensure client's <i>oral health care plan</i> developed by an oral health practitioner specifically includes the application of fluoride varnish and that there are no <i>contraindications</i> to this procedure</p> <p>1.2 Check scope of own work role to ensure it includes application of fluoride varnish as advised by an oral health practitioner in an individualised oral health care plan</p> <p>1.3 Explain fluoride varnish application procedure to client and/or <i>significant others</i> and check their understanding of the <i>benefits of fluoride varnish</i> and the <i>risks associated with fluoride varnish</i></p> <p>1.4 Explain the <i>advantages of fluoride varnish over other procedures</i> and the <i>disadvantages of fluoride varnish over other procedures</i></p> <p>1.5 Confirm informed <i>consent</i></p> <p>1.6 Ensure client is positioned as comfortably as possible according to their individual needs</p> <p>1.7 Prepare <i>fluoride varnish kit</i> and other equipment as required</p> |
| 2. Apply fluoride varnish to teeth | <p>2.1 Position the client for safety and comfort</p> <p>2.2 Prepare teeth for application in accordance with product instructions</p> <p>2.3 Dispense <i>appropriate amount of fluoride varnish</i></p> <p>2.4 <i>Apply fluoride varnish in correct manner</i> with applicator to specific teeth as recommended in the oral health care plan</p> <p>2.5 Apply fluoride varnish in line with <i>legislative requirements, organisation policies and procedures and standard precautions</i></p> |

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA****3. Provide information to client and/or significant others**

3.1 Inform client and/or significant others of the importance of following manufacturer instructions and *recommended guidelines for eating, drinking fluids and brushing/cleaning teeth* following application

3.2 Inform client and/or significant others of any expected changes in tooth appearance or sensation, including colour, feel or taste

3.3 Ensure client and/or significant others are aware of oral health practitioner's recommended schedule for ongoing application in line with their individualised oral health care plan

3.4 Provide information to client and/or significant others in both verbal and take home written or picture formats as appropriate to their individual needs or preferences

4. Complete reporting and documentation according to organisation policy and procedures

4.1 Document and report application undertaken and any concerns arising during contact with client and/or significant others

4.2 Document specific information that is provided to client and/or significant others at each application session

4.3 Complete documentation ensuring client confidentiality and file

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level required for this unit.

Essential knowledge:

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

These include knowledge of:

- Awareness of relevant jurisdictional legislation and regulation relating to fluoride, including schedule, supply, authorisation and disposal
- Awareness of the National Oral Health Plan and other relevant state, territory and national government policy and programs
- Advantages and disadvantages of fluoride varnish use over other preventive products/procedures
- Basic anatomy and physiology underpinning oral health and hygiene
- Benefits and risks associated with fluoride varnish
- Causes and prevention, of tooth wear, including erosion, abrasion and attrition
- Common equipment and aids utilised in the application of fluoride, such as mouth props
- Effective self-care practices for oral health
- Emergency procedures that may be required during the application of fluoride varnish
- Factors that impact on oral health, including:
 - abuse
 - access to services
 - accumulation of plaque and calculus
 - alcohol, licit and illicit drugs and substances, and over the counter and herbal treatments
 - alcohol misuse
 - bacteria in dental plaque
 - client education
 - correct infant feeding practices
 - diet and nutrition, including fluids
 - fluoride
 - general health and wellbeing

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- immunosuppressant conditions
- oral piercings
- medical history
- 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 parent to child
- trauma, such as from seizures
- Healthy eating recommendations as identified in the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Australian Dietary Guidelines
- Occupational health and safety (OHS) issues and procedures, including those related to manual handling and infection control

continued....

Essential knowledge (cont'd):

- Oral disease and broad treatment options available
- Own work role and responsibilities in the application of fluoride varnish Personal safety and security risks associated with provision of fluoride varnish application
- Principles and practices in undertaking technical skills associated with the application of fluoride
- Principles and practices of confidentiality, privacy and consent
- Processes and strategies to support people with oral hygiene care needs
- Relevant evaluation criteria for monitoring effectiveness of fluoride varnish application program
- Role of significant others in supporting clients oral health care needs
- Safe application of fluoride varnish
- Safe storage of products
- Symptoms and signs that suggest need for further assessment and/or treatment
- The relationship between oral health and general health
- Tooth development, including understanding of the:
 - life cycle of a tooth
 - tooth eruption
 - tooth structure
 - tooth types

Essential skills:

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

It is critical that the candidate demonstrate the ability to:

- Adhere to own work role and responsibilities in line with organisation policies and procedures
- Apply fluoride varnish safely and effectively in line with product guidelines and oral health care benefits
- Carry out effective oral health self-care practices
- Communicate effectively with people requiring application of fluoride varnish and their families and/or carers and/or significant others
- Identify and respond to risks associated with applying fluoride varnish
- Liaise and report appropriately to supervisor and/or oral or other health practitioners
- Make informed observations and report appropriately, including the identification of variations to oral health care support requirements
- Obtain and follow relevant information from an individualised care support plan
- Reflect on and improve own level and application of skills and knowledge to achieve desirable outcomes and maintain own capabilities
- Use processes, aids and equipment appropriately in the application of fluoride varnish
- Use relevant technology, including information technology safely and effectively

In addition, the candidate must be able to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

These include the ability to:

- Apply basic problem-solving skills to resolve problems of limited difficulty within organisation protocols
- Apply literacy and numeracy skills required to fulfill work role in a safe manner and as specified by the organisation
- Consistently demonstrate interpersonal skills, including empathy when relating to people from a range of backgrounds and abilities
- Work effectively with clients, colleagues and supervisors

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the Performance Criteria, Required Skills and Knowledge, the Range Statement and the

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate this unit of competency:

- The individual being assessed must provide evidence of specified essential knowledge as well as skills
- This unit is best assessed in the workplace or in a simulated workplace under the normal range of conditions
- Consistency in performance should consider the particular workplace context

Access and equity considerations:

- All workers in health and community services environments should be aware of access, equity and human rights issues in relation to their own area of work
- All workers should develop their ability to work in a culturally diverse environment
- In recognition of particular issues facing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, workers should be aware of cultural, historical and current issues impacting on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- Assessors and trainers must take into account relevant access and equity issues relating to factors impacting on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients and communities

Context of and specific resources for assessment:

- This unit can be delivered and assessed independently, however holistic assessment practice with other community services units of competency is encouraged
- Resources required for assessment include:
 - access to appropriate workplace where assessment can take place
 - simulation of realistic workplace setting

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Method of assessment:

- In cases where the learner does not have the opportunity to cover all relevant aspects in the work environment, the remainder should be assessed through realistic simulations, projects, previous relevant experience or oral questioning on 'What if?' scenarios
- Assessment of this unit of competency will include observation of processes and procedures, oral and/or written questioning on essential knowledge and skills and consideration of required attitudes
- Consistency of performance should be demonstrated over a range of relevant workplace conditions

Related units:

- This unit may be assessed independently or in conjunction with other units with associated workplace application

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Add any essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts.

RANGE STATEMENT

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

Clients may include:

- Clients with prescribed application of fluoride varnish in an individualised oral health care plans, such as those in:
 - aged care facilities
 - correctional facilities
 - mental health facilities
 - rural, remote or isolated communities

Oral health care plan may include:

- A stand-alone individualised oral health care support plan
- Care plan written by an appropriate health practitioner
- Oral hygiene care plan
- Personal care tasks embedded in a wider individualised plan

Contraindications may include but not be limited to:

- A known allergy to one of the constituents of the varnish
- Being pregnant or lactating
- Last application less than three months earlier
- Not having eaten prior to treatment

RANGE STATEMENT

Significant others may include but are not limited to:

- Any person with the appointed right to speak for the client, such as:
 - carers
 - guardians
 - members of family
 - other professionals

Benefits of fluoride varnish include but may not be limited to:

- Prevention and reduction of dental caries
- Reduced tooth sensitivity

Risks associated with fluoride varnish include but may not be limited to:

- Incorrect dose which may be toxic
- Over-application i.e. less than three months apart
- Swallowing fluoride varnish which can be toxic and corrective action i.e. drinking milk must be taken

Advantages of fluoride varnish over other procedures includes but may not be limited to:

- Can be used in some cases where there is tooth sensitivity resulting from erosion or abrasion
- Dries rapidly and will set even in presence of saliva
- Has sticky consistency which helps it adhere to tooth's surface
- Quickly applied

Disadvantages of fluoride varnish over other procedures includes but may not be limited to:

- Is technique sensitive and poor technique, such as not covering entire specified surface negates outcomes
- May cause a temporary change in the surface colour of teeth as well as some filling materials
- May cause gagging and/or vomiting
- May require a dry field during application
- Requires client cooperation

Consent may be:

- Verbal
- Written

RANGE STATEMENT

Fluoride varnish kit may consist of:

- Applicator/micro-brush
- Cotton rolls
- Fluoride varnish
- Gauze for cleaning tooth in preparation for varnish

Appropriate amount of fluoride varnish refers to:

- Amount as stated in the product application guidelines or oral health care plan and depending upon the specific product

Apply fluoride varnish in correct manner refers to:

- Keeping client mouth open and tongue away from teeth
- Maintaining moisture control
- Retracting lip, wiping and applying a thin layer of varnish to the teeth as prescribed in the oral health care plan
- Ensuring varnish is applied only directly to the area prescribed in the oral health care plan without contact with other tissues
- Wiping tongue to remove excess varnish using wipe
- Never dispensing product in addition to that stated in the oral health care plan

Legislative requirements refer to:

- Federal, state or territory legislation that may impact on workers' practices and responsibilities, noting that implementation of the unit of competency must reflect the legislative framework in which a worker operates

Organisation policies and procedures may include but not be limited to:

- Clinical protocols
- Position descriptions
- Workplace policies and procedures, including:
 - infection control
 - OHS

RANGE STATEMENT

Standard precautions refer to infection control and include:

- Washing hands before and after oral care
- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including:
 - gloves
 - mask
 - eye/facial protection e.g. glasses/face shield
 - gown
- Use, where appropriate, environmental barriers, such as plastic coverings on chair headrests
- Disposal of PPE
- Appropriate handling of contaminated waste
- Effective environmental cleaning

Recommended guidelines for eating, drinking fluids and brushing/cleaning teeth include:

- Client should not eat or drink for specified time as per product instructions to prevent removal of fluoride varnish unless necessary e.g. if diabetic
- Client should avoid hot foods and should eat a soft, non-abrasive diet for the rest of the day
- Drinking cool fluids, preferably water, is acceptable
- Resume regular and effective oral health procedures as per practitioners recommendations in the oral health care plan

Unit Sector(s)

Not Applicable