

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

**To:** Community Health Centers, Dentists, HealthCheck Providers, Rural Health Clinics, Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## Coverage Policy for Silver Diamine Fluoride

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after April 1, 2019, ForwardHealth will now cover silver diamine fluoride services for children and adults without prior authorization (PA). Silver diamine fluoride is a conservative treatment of an active, non-symptomatic carious lesion by topical application of a caries-arresting or inhibiting medicament without mechanical removal of sound tooth structure.

### Clinical Criteria

The following are clinical criteria for coverage of silver diamine fluoride services:

- Treat and/or stabilize asymptomatic teeth with active carious lesion
- Treat difficult dental carious lesions such as exposed roots and root furcation
- Treat members with extreme caries risk (Xerostomia or Severe Early Childhood Caries)
- Treat carious lesions for members challenged by behavioral or medical management
- Treat carious lesions that may not all be treated in one visit
- Treat members who have limited and/or no access to restorative dental care

Providers are encouraged to review American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry policy guidelines for appropriate use of silver diamine fluoride:

- [www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/P\\_SilverDiamine.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_SilverDiamine.pdf)

- [www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/R\\_ChairsideGuide.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/R_ChairsideGuide.pdf)

### Allowable Procedure Code

ForwardHealth will cover the application of silver diamine fluoride identified by *Current Dental Terminology* procedure code D1354 (Interim caries arresting medicament application — per tooth) without PA.

### Limitations and Requirements

The following limitations and requirements apply to coverage of silver diamine fluoride services:

- Allowed for treatment of asymptomatic and active dental caries only
- Allowed once per tooth, per six-month period
- Allowed for all ages
- Not allowed on the same DOS as the restoration of that tooth
- Reimbursable when rendered by dentists, dental hygienists, and HealthCheck providers only

*Note:* Frequency limitation may be exceeded for up to four times per tooth per 12-month period for members with high caries risk. Providers are required to retain documentation demonstrating medical necessity.

### Claim Submission

When submitting claims for silver diamine fluoride services, providers are required to include the tooth number(s) or letter(s).

## Reimbursement

Reimbursement for procedure code D1354 is allowed once per day, per member, per tooth. For reimbursement amounts, refer to the maximum allowable fee schedule, available on the ForwardHealth Portal at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

## Additional Provider Responsibilities

Providers are required to disseminate the risks and benefits of silver diamine fluoride use and to discuss treatment alternatives as applicable. Providers are required to obtain written consent from the member or parent/legal guardian, particularly highlighting expected staining to treated lesion, potential staining of skin and clothes, and the need for reapplication for disease control, prior to providing the service. To ensure compliance with program requirements, the written consent document should be retained with the member's dental record and be available upon request.

## Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *ForwardHealth Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to members who receive their dental benefits on a fee-for-service basis. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO). MCOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health, DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

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This *Update* was issued on 02/19/2019 and information contained in this *Update* was incorporated into the Online Handbook on 04/01/2019.