

Silver Diamine Fluoride

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the application of **silver diamine fluoride (SDF)** as a clinical treatment to help reduce sensitivity and to help control the progression of active dental caries.



In an effort to address the dental needs of our members ages 0 – 20 with evidence of active dental caries, AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania provides a dental benefit/reimbursement for SDF treatments.

What is silver diamine fluoride (SDF)?

SDF is a clear, colorless liquid containing silver and fluoride used to treat active dental caries in primary teeth while preventing further progression of disease.

Why treat with SDF?

Applying SDF to an affected tooth can stop or slow down the process of further decay to the tooth. Active dental caries can be painful and can lead to tooth loss, which affects chewing and eating.¹

How often can SDF be applied?

- Members may receive SDF treatments every 180 days or two times per rolling year.
- Members identified as high risk via the Caries Risk Assessment may receive SDF treatments every 90 days or four times per rolling year.

Who can apply SDF?

Currently, dentists, dental hygienists, and Expanded Functions Dental Assistants (EFDAs) are permitted to apply SDF.

What are some considerations when applying SDF?

- Decayed dentin will darken (dark brown or black in color) as the carious lesions arrest.
- A saturated solution of potassium iodine can be used after SDF treatment to decrease color changes.
- To eliminate staining of the adjacent teeth, the tooth that needs to be treated should be isolated.
- SDF can stain the skin but will disappear in two to three weeks due to natural skin exfoliation.
- SDF can permanently stain clothing and dry surfaces.

What are the expectations when using SDF?

- SDF will harden the tooth structure.
- There will be less sensitivity to the affected tooth/teeth.
- SDF should lessen the pain in the affected tooth/teeth.
- A healthier mouth fights off any new unhealthy bacteria.

¹ www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5347149/

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Should SDF be used in place of varnish fluoride?

No. SDF is not to be used in place of topical fluoride varnish.

What are the billing requirements when applying SDF?

- The service is a benefit for members ages 0 – 20.
- The billing code for SDF treatment is **D1354**. This dental code must be billed with any other dental code provided on the same date of service. Indication is needed of the tooth/teeth treated (tooth number or letter).
- SDF treatment benefit will be paid every 180 days (or two times per rolling year), with a maximum of five teeth per arch.
- For members found to be high risk via the Caries Risk Assessment, benefit will be paid every 90 days (four times per rolling year), with a maximum of five teeth per arch.
- \$5 per tooth, with a maximum of \$25 per arch.
- Prior authorization is not required.

For further information concerning the uses, application, and dosages, please refer to **www.elevateoralcare.com** or contact your Dental Account Executive.

Resources

Elevate Oral Care. **www.elevateoralcare.com**.

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. **www.aapd.org**.

American Dental Association. **www.ada.org**.

Kids Care Dental and Orthodontics. **www.kidscaredental.com**.

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Tip Hotline: 1-866-833-9718, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Secure and confidential. You may remain anonymous. Mandatory provider training is available online at **www.amerihealthcaritaspa.com/provider/resources/fraud.aspx**.

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ACPA_211094240-14