



December 17, 2015

Blast Communication

Attention Primary Care Pediatricians:

AAP Makes Updates to Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule

The AAP has made the following updates to the AAP Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule regarding fluoride varnish and vision screening (links are embedded in titles of documents). The full updated [AAP/Bright Futures Periodicity](#) has been released.

Changes made October 2015: Vision Screening

- The routine screening at age 18 has been changed to a risk assessment.
- Footnote 7 has been updated to read, "A visual acuity screen is recommended at ages 4 and 5 years, as well as in cooperative 3 year olds. Instrument based screening may be used to assess risk at ages 12 and 24 months, in addition to the well visits at 3 through 5 years of age. See 2016 AAP statement, "[Visual System Assessment in Infants, Children, and Young Adults by Pediatricians](#)" and "[Procedures for Evaluation of the Visual System by Pediatricians](#)."

Changes made Changes made May 2015: Oral Health

- A subheading has been added for fluoride varnish, with a recommendation from 6 months through 5 years.
- Footnote 25 wording has been edited and also includes reference to the 2014 clinical report, "[Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting](#)" and 2014 policy statement, "[Maintaining and Improving the Oral Health of Young Children](#)"
- Footnote 26 has been added to the new fluoride varnish subheading: See [USPSTF recommendations](#); once teeth are present, fluoride varnish may be applied to all children every 3-6 months in the primary care or dental office.
- Indications for fluoride use are noted in the 2014 AAP clinical report "[Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting](#)"

We will keep you posted on when these vision recommendations will be adopted by Medicaid within the Early Periodic Screening, Detection, and Treatment (EPSDT) – Health Check. Note, Fluoride Varnish will be adopted by Health Check on January 1, 2016. There are pending additional updates to the schedule planned for 2016. An article in the recent edition of [Pediatric News](#) outlines possible updates.

If you have any questions, please contact Fozia Khan Eskew at feskew@gaaap.org or 404-881-5074.

Nicky Chin, MD, FAAP

Chair, Bright Futures Task Force