

About the MCH-IOHI Chartbook

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funded the Maternal and Child Health— Improving Oral Health Integration (MCH-IOHI) projects to advance the integration of preventive oral health care (POHC) into primary care to make POHC more accessible to infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant women, including those with special health care needs, who are at risk for poor oral health. Connecticut was funded through the Weitzman Institute, for the project *Improving Oral Health for Young Children in Connecticut Through Policy, Practice, Education, and Evaluation*.

As a part of this work, all the grantees in collaboration with Consortium for Oral Health created the [MCH-IOHI Environmental Scan Chartbook](#). **This is a summary of Connecticut’s MCH-IOHI policy landscape.**

Oral Health Scope of Practice for Providers and Team Members

Table: Allowable Services under the provider’s scope of practice in CT

	Caries Risk Assessment	Fluoride Varnish	Silver Diamine Fluoride
Physician	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physician Assistant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Advanced Practice Nurse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Registered Nurse	No	Delegated	No
Licensed Practical Nurse	No	Delegated	No
Certified/Registered Medical Assistant	No	Delegated	No
Dentist	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dental Therapist	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dental Hygienist	Yes	Yes	No



Connecticut is the only MCH-IOHI state that does not allow dental hygienists to apply silver diamine fluoride either directly or through delegation.

Connecticut, Texas, and South Carolina are the only MCH-IOHI states that do not allow registered or licensed practical nurses and certified or registered medical assistants to perform caries risk assessments directly or through delegation.

Table: Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists ability to practice in medical settings

	Can practice in Medical Setting	Type of Supervision Required
Dental Hygienists	Yes*	Direct access*
Dental Therapists	Yes	General

* In Connecticut, dental hygienists with two years of experience may practice without supervision in institutions, including hospitals and outpatient clinics.

Medicaid Billing and Reimbursement for Medical Providers

Table: Services medical providers can bill and be reimbursed for the service through Medicaid for

	Children (from birth to 21 years)	Pregnant Women ≥ age 21
Caries Risk Assessment (D0601- D0603)	Yes*	No
Oral Evaluation for Patient < 3 (D0145)	No	(Not Applicable)
Assessment of a Patient (D0191)	No	No
Fluoride Varnish (99188/D1206)	Yes	No
Silver Diamine Fluoride (X115T/O792T/D1354)	No	No
Oral Hygiene Instruction (D1330)	Yes*	No
Nutritional Counseling for Dental Disease (D1310)	No	No

* Connecticut reimburses for a caries risk assessment via a DA Modifier attached to well-child visit codes (D0601-D0603 claims are not reimbursed). Oral hygiene instruction is covered under CPT coding for anticipatory guidance (Bright Futures).



In Connecticut, oral health services performed by FQCH medical providers cannot be billed to Medicaid outside the medical encounter within the Prospective Payment System (PPS).

Table: Codes Physicians or Their State/Jurisdiction–Allowed Designee use for billing and current Medicaid reimbursement rate for children (from birth to age 21)

	Code	Reimbursement
Caries Risk Assessment	99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99381-99383, 99391-99393*	\$25.00
Fluoride Varnish	99188	\$20.00
<p>* In Connecticut, medical providers bill for a caries risk assessment using an evaluation and management CPT code with a DA modifier (DA-oral health assessment by a licensed health provider other than a dentist). The highest reimbursement for fluoride varnish in other MCH-IOHI states is Colorado, whose reimbursement is \$42.</p>		

Table: Medical Providers that can directly bill Medicaid for a fluoride varnish application or silver diamine fluoride treatment

	Fluoride Varnish Application	Silver Diamine Fluoride Treatment
Physician	Yes	No
Physician Assistant	Yes	No
Advanced Practice Nurse	Yes	No
Registered Nurse	No	No
Licensed Practical Nurse	No	No



Medicaid does not reimburse medical providers for fluoride varnish application to pregnant women \geq age 21.



Connecticut Medicaid allows for fluoride varnish reimbursement at every well-child visit as determined by EPSDT schedule with an age restriction of < age 7.

6.7%

of Connecticut Medicaid beneficiaries ages 1-21 received a topical fluoride application from a Medical Provider or a Direct-Access Dental Hygienist in 2022.

8.2%

of children ages 1 to 2 who were continuously enrolled for 12 months received at least two fluoride varnish applications by a medical provider (CPT 99188).



Fluoride Varnish Application by Medical Providers for Children

Providers are required to take a training course for Medicaid reimbursement. The fluoride application does not have to be combined with a well-child visit. The number is not reduced if a child receives fluoride varnish application from a dentist.

Medicaid Billing and Reimbursement for Dental Providers

Table: Services dental providers can bill and be reimbursed for the service through Medicaid for

	Children (from birth to 21 years)*	Pregnant Women ≥ age 21
Caries Risk Assessment (D0601- 0603)	Yes	Yes
Fluoride Varnish (D1206)	Yes	Yes
Silver Diamine Fluoride (D1354)	Yes	Yes
Oral Hygiene Instruction (D1330)	No	No
Nutritional Counseling (D1310)	No	No
Oral Health Case Management (D9992)	Yes*	No
<p>* In Connecticut, oral health case management is “manually priced,” which means that reimbursement is determined on a case-by-case basis through a manual review process. Connecticut, and Montana, are the only MCH-IOHI states that reimburse dental providers from caries risk assessment and oral health case management.</p>		

Table: Codes Dentist or Their Designee use for billing and current Medicaid reimbursement rate for children (from birth to age 21)

	Code	Reimbursement
Fluoride Varnish	D1206	\$28.00
Nutritional Counseling	D1310	\$23.00
Oral Health Case Management	D9992	Manually Priced Reimbursement is determined on a case-by-case basis through a manual review process.

Silver Diamine Fluoride Reimbursement



Silver Diamine Fluoride per tooth reimbursement rate is \$28.42 per arch & \$1.00 per tooth.

Age restriction for reimbursement is < age 21 or age > 21 if adult has special health care needs.

Frequency is capped at 4 times per year per arch.

Table: Which dental providers can directly bill Medicaid for applying fluoride varnish or silver diamine fluoride

	Fluoride Varnish	Silver Diamine Fluoride
Dentists	Yes	Yes
Dental Therapists	No*	No*
Dental Hygienists	Yes	No

* Although Connecticut has dental therapy legislation there are currently no practicing dental therapists.



Fluoride Varnish Application Restrictions for Dental Providers

Fluoride varnish is limited to 2 for children < age 21.

Pregnant women are allowed 1 fluoride application.

The number is not reduced if a child receives fluoride varnish application from a medical provider.

Silver Diamine Fluoride Varnish Application Restrictions for Dental Providers

Primary Teeth: May be applied once every 4 months regardless of the tooth surface until the tooth nears exfoliation.

Permanent Teeth: May be applied once every 4 months regardless of the tooth surface for a maximum of six times per lifetime of the tooth/teeth. Additional applications may be prior authorized if medically necessary.

All teeth requiring silver diamine fluoride application shall be treated in one visit and not over multiple appointments regardless of the type of provider, facility, clinic, or FQHC, delivering the service.



Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists with 2 years of experience may practice without supervision in institutions, public health facilities, group homes, and schools.

Public health dental hygienists can provide care in defined public health facilities including but not limited to community health centers, group homes, schools, preschools, Head Start Programs, WICs, senior centers, managed residential communities, child care centers, temporary dental clinics, nursing facilities, substance use disorder treatment facilities, and facilities for those with intellectual disabilities.



Dental Therapists

Connecticut has passed dental therapy legislation but does not have any practicing dental therapists in the state.

Colorado, Montana, and Wisconsin are the only other MCH-IOHI states that have Dental Therapist legislation.

Table: Non-Dental services dental providers can provide, and if Medicaid reimburses the service

	Allowable	Reimbursable
Blood Glucose Test	Yes	Yes
Hypertension Screening	No	Not Applicable
Behavioral Health Screening	No	Not Applicable
Tobacco-Cessation Education	Yes	Yes
Vaccines	No	Not Applicable



Community Health Workers

Connecticut has a certification process for community health workers (CHW).

This certification does not include oral health in the curriculum. Connecticut does not have Medicaid programs that reimburse for oral health services provided by a CHW.

Texas is the only MCH-IOHI state with certified CHWs that includes oral health in their CHW curriculum

General Information



Connecticut does not have teledentistry. The only other MCH-IOHI state that does not have teledentistry is South Carolina.



CHCs can bill same day for medical and dental services in Connecticut.



Connecticut's Medicaid dental benefit for pregnant women \geq age 21 extends to 12 months postpartum.

Connecticut's Medicaid dental benefit for pregnant women \geq age 21 is extensive.*

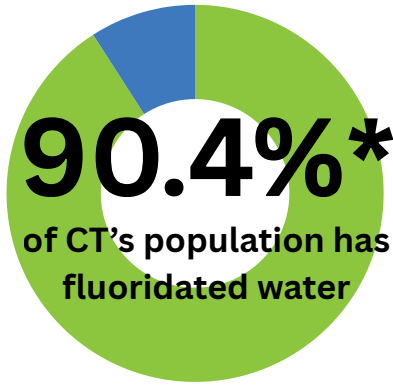
* Extensive: A comprehensive mix of services, including more than 100 diagnostic, preventive, and minor and major restorative procedures approved by ADA; per-person annual expenditure cap is at least \$1,000.



Connecticut has programs to incentivize dentists to participate in Medicaid.*

* Connecticut has a student loan repayment program for dentists providing care at a qualifying employer in a Health Professional Shortage Area or at a qualifying state agency.

Connecticut does not have value-based care payment models for oral health.



While CDC’s 2022 Water Fluoridation Statistics state that 90.4% of CT has fluoridated water, CT’s internal data has that only 86% of the state’s population that is served by a community water system receives fluoridated water.



Connecticut has 1 accredited dental school and 4 accredited dental hygiene programs as of July 2025.



Connecticut’s Oral Health Program and Coalition

Connecticut has an Oral Health Program and Oral Health Coalition.

Number of Dentists working in Dentistry (2023)	Percentage of Dentists participating in Medicaid/CHIP (2019)	Percentage of Dentists that served 1+ Medicaid Enrollees (2017)	Percentage of Dentists that served 100+ Medicaid Enrollees (2017)
2,537	45%	37%	19%

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