

Bulletin Number: MSA 16-38

Distribution: Dentists and Dental Clinics

Issued: November 30, 2016

Subject: Interim Caries Arresting Medicament Application

Effective: January 1, 2017

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, and Children's Special Health Care Services

Effective January 1, 2017, the Current Dental Terminology (CDT) Code D1354-Interim Caries Arresting Medicament Application will be added as a Medicaid covered dental benefit for all ages. Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) at 38% is the standard topical medicament to be used for conservative caries arrestment of non-symptomatic carious lesions without mechanical removal of tooth structure. Approved for use in the United States in August of 2014 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), SDF has been successfully used for treatment of dentin hypersensitivity and caries arrest and is the only medicament allowed by Medicaid policy.

SDF is a covered benefit for all ages. It is billable once per date of service regardless of the number of teeth, with a maximum of 6 applications per lifetime. Advantage Arrest™ by Elevate Oral Care is currently the only FDA approved SDF for use in the United States. Direct application to the tooth is required to arrest active carious lesions, however application to sound teeth is not necessary for the additional anti-caries benefit. Application of SDF has an antimicrobial effect on the entire oral cavity in addition to the teeth being treated for caries arrest.

D1354 is considered a temporary measure to arrest and slow the progression of caries. It should be used only when traditional methods of restoration are not available or are contraindicated. A minimum of two applications per year has been shown to increase the caries arresting effectiveness. Treated lesions must be monitored over time to assess caries arrest. Additional applications may not be necessary or recommended if caries arrest is still in effect. SDF is not meant to be used as a full-mouth fluoride varnish therapy. SDF application does not eliminate the need for tooth restoration nor does it preclude the ability to restore the tooth. It is not used as a base prior to restoration and it has the disadvantage of darkening the carious area of the tooth. SDF will not stain non-carious tooth structure. The darkened tooth structure can be removed with restoration of the tooth.

Indications for use include:

- high-caries risk
- behavioral or medical management issues
- dentinal hypersensitivity
- caries stabilization
- xerostomia from cancer treatment or multiple hyposalivatory medications
- treating vulnerable surfaces, such as roots exposed from periodontal attachment loss, overdenture and partial denture abutments, or partially exposed third molars
- difficult-to-treat caries lesions (e.g., furcations, margins of fixed bridges)
- patients without access to restorative dental services
- cognitive disabilities (e.g., patients with autism or dementia)
- physical disabilities
- dental phobias

Contraindications for SDF Use:

- allergy to silver or other heavy-metal ions
- oral ulcerations, stomatitis, or ulcerative gingivitis present at the time of application
- more than 5 teeth treated on the same date of service.

Education and Informed Consent:

Because Silver Diamine Fluoride is new in the US, communication and education of providers, staff and patients on the application, benefits and risks is required. Informed consent should include the following and be signed by the patient or guardian.

- Treatment with SDF requires more than one application to effectively arrest decay
- Treatment with SDF does not eliminate the need for restorations to repair function or esthetics.
- Affected areas will stain black permanently until replaced with a restoration.
- Tooth-colored restorations may discolor from SDF, but can generally be removed with polishing.
- SDF accidentally applied to the skin or gum tissue may stain white or brown if not immediately washed off, but will disappear within a couple of weeks.
- Although SDF has been proven to be highly successful, application does not guarantee caries arrest.

Billing

D1354-Interim Caries Arresting Medicament Application is billable once per date of service regardless of the number of teeth treated up to a maximum of 5 teeth per visit. D1354 has a maximum lifetime limit of 6 applications as medically necessary in the treatment of active caries when traditional treatments are not available or are contraindicated. SDF cannot be billed on the same date of service as other fluoride applications.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Priest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chris Priest, Director
Medical Services Administration