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An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of AZBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and or decrease risk.

**OPINION: Fluoride Varnish/ Oral Health Screening**  
**APPROVED**  
**DATE: 01/11**  
**REVISED DATE:**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of  RN  LPN

### **ADVISORY OPINION FLUORIDE VARNISH: ORAL HEALTH SCREENING**

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform oral health screening/assessment and application of fluoride varnish procedures under the supervision of a licensed care provider who possesses specific knowledge, skills, and abilities in oral health screening/ assessment and fluoride varnish application procedures, on the appropriate client population, if the following requirements are met.

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to apply fluoride varnish under the supervision of an RN.

#### **I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Written policy and approved protocols are maintained by the employer/agency.
- B. RN's who have satisfactorily completed a formal instructional program and have supervised clinical practice is allowed to perform oral health screening/assessments and the application of fluoride varnish.
- C. LPNs who have satisfactorily completed a formal instructional program and have supervised clinical practice is allowed to apply fluoride varnish.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and clinical requirements, as well as ongoing competencies and supervised clinical practice are on file with the employer/agency.

## II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, assessment of the systems involved, and terminology of the oral health system and supporting structures including different oral health screening/assessment and fluoride varnish classification appropriate for the individual procedure(s).
- B. Indications, proper client selection, history taking, physical assessment parameters, and contraindications for treatment given.
- C. Alternative treatment options including “no” treatment.
- D. Complications and management of potential side effects or adverse reactions of each procedure treatment and administrative agents.
- E. Pharmacology of all administrative pharmacologic agents.
- F. Techniques of each individual oral health screening/assessment and fluoride varnish application procedure and proper selection, maintenance, and utilization of equipment.
- G. Infection control measures and safety precautions.
- H. Nursing care responsibilities to include, but not limited to:
  - 1. Nursing process
  - 2. Refer to dental provider
  - 3. Patient teaching pre and post-procedure
  - 4. Obtaining informed consent
  - 5. Client monitoring during all phases of treatment
  - 6. Maintaining client confidentiality

## III. RATIONALE

The guiding principle at the request of an organization for this opinion is that it is recognized that oral health screening/assessment and fluoride varnish application procedures can be safely performed by a Registered Nurse under the supervision of a properly trained licensed care provider and with specialized training, skills, ongoing training, and knowledge.

## IV. REFERENCES

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