

**Opinion: FAQ- Fluoride Varnish Oral Health Screening**  
**Date Approved 01/2011 Within the Scope of Practice of RN and LPN**  
**Scope of Practice Committee**

**Frequently Asked Question Regarding the Role of the RN and LPN with Fluoride Varnish:  
Oral Health Screening**

**INTRODUCTION:** The Arizona State Board of Nursing has received questions regarding the scope of practice for RN's and LPN's to perform oral health screening and application of fluoride varnish procedures under the supervision of a licensed care provider who possesses specific knowledge, skills, and abilities in oral health.

**BACKGROUND:** Promoting oral health screening, and application of fluoride varnish procedures for early caries prevention provides support for the need for early access to primary disease prevention efforts regarding oral health in the Arizona communities.

**QUESTION:** *Is it within the Scope of Practice for the Registered Nurse (RN) and/or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to apply fluoride varnish in the course of an oral health screening?*

**ANSWER:** It is within the Scope of Practice for an RN and/or LPN to safely perform oral health screening 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 and fluoride varnish application procedures within the appropriate client population.

**RATIONALE:** The guiding principle is that it is recognized by evidence-based practice that oral health promotion screening and fluoride varnish application procedures for oral health disease prevention can be safely performed by a RN and/or LPN under the supervision of a trained licensed care provider with specialized training, skills, and knowledge.

**References:**

Arizona State Board of Nursing. (2014). *Advisory opinion fluoride varnish: Oral health screening*. Retrieved February 3, 2014, at <http://www.azbn.gov/AdvisoryOpinions.aspx>

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