

2024 Request for Applications
American Academy of Pediatrics Pilot Program
Implementing Guidance:
Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Application in the Pediatric Medical Setting

The AAP seeks three to four (3-4) pediatric practices, including but not limited to private practices, community or public health centers, or Indian Health Service facilities, to pilot newly developed guidance on the application of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) to arrest tooth decay in pediatric practice.

Background

The CareQuest Institute for Oral Health funding has enabled an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) expert work group to adapt [pediatric dental guidelines on the application of silver diamine fluoride \(SDF\)](#) to guidance for pediatricians. Such guidance will support medical professionals to offer minimally invasive, interim dental treatment to children with untreated cavities.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Practice must provide routine pediatric care; approximately 50% of patient population is under age 5 and presenting with untreated tooth decay.
2. Practice must currently perform [oral health risk assessment](#) (visual exam of mouth; oral health history; application of fluoride varnish; review of self-management goals; referral to a dental home). **Practice should not provide or have adjacent / co-located dental services.**
3. Practice shall identify one pediatrician to lead the pilot project.
4. All pilot project clinical personnel will complete two modules from the [Smiles for Life](#) (SFL) national oral health curriculum: [Early Childhood Caries](#) and [FCC Risk Assessment](#) prior to hands-on training. (Online trainings take about one hour each to complete and confer CME.)
5. Project lead physician and appropriate clinical staff are made available for one-time, hands-on training in SDF application by a local dental professional who will be identified and engaged by the AAP at no cost to the practice .
6. Participating practices will assess their experiences using the guidance, provide feedback to our evaluation consultant, and code / bill for SDF application using the temporary Category 3 code 0792T.
7. Practice manager, appropriate staff and/or information technologist are available to add new CPT code to electronic health record system and pull reports throughout the project.
8. Practice has the ability to complete the program and submit feedback for evaluation within the requested timeframe. Practice shares example of any resulting office workflows that include SDF.
9. Practice can store a limited number of SDF starter kits (probably 1 average-sized shipping box).

Tentative Project Schedule

Target Date	Activity
June 14, 2024	Applications due
June 21, 2024	Applicants notified
Prior to end June	Complete two <i>Smiles for Life</i> online modules and submit certificate of completion
June 24, 2024 – 11:30 am CST	Kick off meeting
Prior to end July	Hands-on training completed
Thru October	Apply SDF and assess experience
July, August, September	Attend a monthly one-hour learning/sharing session for each of three months
October-November	Complete exit interview with evaluation consultant
Early 2025	Participate in follow up call 6 months following project completion

Practice Expectations

1. Practices will receive up to \$5,000 to defray the costs of implementing the pilot program. \$2,500.00 will be provided upon completion of hands-on training; \$2,500.00 will be provided upon completion of the exit interview.
2. Appropriate clinical practice staff will receive hands-on training in SDF application technique from a local dental professional who will be identified and engaged by the American Academy of Pediatrics at no cost to the practice. Pilot participants will have other participating practice teams' leaders and members to draw upon throughout the pilot.
3. At the end of each visit in which SDF was recommended and/or applied, practice will distribute a card provided by the AAP to the patient's parent/guardian. The card will include a QR code and will ask the caregiver to scan and complete an anonymous survey, also provided by the AAP, on their experience.
4. Successful completion of the steps outlined above includes participation in a virtual kick off meeting and three learning and sharing sessions (see project timeline above); submission of SDF provider feedback; distribution of parent/guardian survey information; participation in an exit interview; contribution to revisions of SDF guidance document and sample office workflow.

Benefits to Practices

1. Opportunity to be an early adopter and champion for a minimally invasive treatment for children in need of dental care.
2. Opportunity to receive no-cost professional training on children's oral health and the application of SDF.
3. Opportunity to collaborate on integrating and providing new interim treatment to children presenting with dental disease.
4. Opportunity to collaborate with other pediatric medical and dental professionals.
5. Opportunity to contribute to learning and refine tools and resources for pediatric and family physicians nationwide.
6. Complementary SDF application kits with all needed materials.

As payment is not yet established in most states, this project offers \$5,000.00 to defray costs.

What is learned from the participating practices will be used to improve AAP guidance, inform and increase medical-dental collaboration and access to dental care, and educate health professionals and broader audiences on SDF as an interim treatment in primary care medical settings.

**Please complete/submit the application [AT THIS LINK](#) by Friday, June 14, 2024
For more information, please contact Hollis Russinof (hrussinof@aap.org).**



Scan this link to access the application.

Thank you!