

South Dakota State Board of Dentistry's

Fluoride Varnish Declaratory Ruling

Understanding that children and certain high risk populations with limited access to dental care are at an increased risk for dental caries, and

Knowing that fluorides have been used for many years to help prevent tooth decay, and

Realizing that fluoride varnish can be applied in virtually any setting without the use of dental instruments, and

Given the fact of the increasing trend of health care professionals, in addition to dentists, that administer fluoride varnish, including health professionals in the states of Minnesota, South Carolina, California, Ohio, Kentucky, Vermont and Idaho, and

Since the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children at high risk of dental caries should receive fluoride varnish application in their primary care physician's office;

Be it resolved, that the South Dakota Board of Dentistry determines that the administration of fluoride varnish should not be practically limited solely to licensed dental practitioners, and

And that in the opinion of the Board that the application of such varnishes, once prescribed by an appropriately licensed practitioner, does not meet the definition of dental practice as defined in SDCL 36-6A-32.

Unanimously approved January 4, 2008