



7 Competency Areas for DOPs

A trainee must be assessed as competent in areas 1 - 7 to complete the DOP satisfactorily. If they do not complete one of the competencies satisfactorily the area should be identified, addressed and the entire DOP re-taken.

1. Checking/Taking a relevant history and risk-assessing for fluoride varnish application

- The nurse should check they have the Medical History signed by the dentist.
- The nurse should take a relevant medical history which includes exploring the asthma/allergy possibility - the Childsmile MH form should be discussed and signed again on the day of application.
- Any child feeling unwell on the day should be re-appointed.
- The Risk assessment should be carried out as per Clinical Manual.
- Any abnormality of the face or lips identified.
- Any abnormality of the oral soft tissues.
- Caries which involves pulp exposure.
- Non-compliant child.

2. Clinical Judgment

The nurse should then

- consider all info obtained at the risk assessment and should reach a decision whether or not to apply fluoride varnish and/or to refer to a dentist.
- demonstrate that they are able to thoroughly inspect the lips and mouth for any abnormality.

3. Technical Ability and Manual Dexterity

All technical procedures must be performed appropriately, accurately and efficiently.

The trainee should demonstrate they can

- set up a tray as per the application protocol.
- dispense the appropriate quantity (0.25/0.4ml) of fluoride varnish.
- apply the fluoride varnish as per the application protocol.
- carry out the procedure in a manner that ensures the comfort of the child.

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4. Communication Skills

- The trainee should demonstrate good communication skills with the assistant.
- All stages of the procedure must be explained to the child and family in a manner they can understand.
- Good oral health messages should be given to the child/family when appropriate.
- During the procedure the trainer should assess how well the trainee communicates with the child and parent.
- The trainee should demonstrate use of verbal and non-verbal patient management techniques as appropriate, e.g. tell – show – do.

5. Professionalism

The trainee should

- Show respect, courtesy and compassion for the child. Honesty and confidentiality should be maintained, and the GDC guidelines regarding professional conduct should be adhered to at all times.
- Demonstrate they act in a professional manner during the procedure.

6. Knowledge

The trainee should demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge in the field. This will be assessed by using appropriate questions regarding the procedure.

- How does fluoride varnish prevent caries?
- What is the toxic dose of fluoride varnish for 3 and 4 year old children?
- What is the protocol for a collapsed patient?
- What is the protocol for a patient with possible child protection issues?
- What is their responsibility in this?

7. Organisation

The trainee must

- be prepared for each child and work in an organised manner.
- demonstrate that they have taken appropriate precautions to prevent fluoride varnish being accessible to the patient or other children.
- undertake fluoride varnish application in an appropriate amount of time.