

Revised (10/23/07)

**DECISION-MAKING MATRIX**  
**TOPICAL FLUORIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGH-RISK CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 YEARS**

**Population-Based Risk Factors**

- Low-income children (e.g., enrolled in Head Start, WIC, free/reduced lunch program, Medicaid or SCHIP eligible, or other programs serving low-income children)
- Children with special health care needs

Age		Children Under 2 Years	Children 2-6 Years
<b>Fluoride Modality</b>	Toothpaste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage parents and caregivers to take an active role in brushing their children's teeth once the first tooth erupts</li> <li>▪ Educate parents and caregivers on proper fluoride toothpaste use</li> <li>▪ Brush children's teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice daily</li> <li>▪ Use a smear of fluoride toothpaste</li> <li>▪ Do not rinse after brushing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage parents and caregivers to take an active role in brushing their children's teeth</li> <li>▪ Educate parents and caregivers on proper fluoride toothpaste use</li> <li>▪ Brush children's teeth, or assist children with toothbrushing, twice a day</li> <li>▪ Use no more than a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste</li> <li>▪ Children should spit out excess toothpaste</li> <li>▪ Do not rinse after brushing</li> </ul>
	Varnish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apply every 3-6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apply every 3-6 months</li> </ul>
	Mouth rinses, gel, or foam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not recommended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not recommended</li> </ul>
	Drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All children should drink optimally fluoridated water once the first tooth erupts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All children should drink optimally fluoridated water</li> </ul>