

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