

04/04/2012

Dear Committee,

I started with EPC in late 2007 when one of my patients brought the form, I had only started my practice in the year 2007 so the form was very new to me. My then practice manager called Medicare to find out the details and we did not get any information except we were told that money \$4250 was available for any dental procedures. We had to find ourselves the schedule of payment from the Medicare website.

As this was the first time our practice had been exposed to Medicare/ or any other government bodies, we did not have any information either from Medicare or any other body.

This scheme is definitely very helpful for patients who had chronic illnesses and did not have sufficient funds to get treated in a dental practice.

I have also gone ahead and treated patients beyond the \$4250 with Medicare fees to help the patient achieve good oral well being.

My current situation is that I have been subjected to full audit by Medicare. We were given enough information about the scheme only recently and that too by the ADA and not by Medicare.

In late 2010 my business partner Dr. Paul Soon passed away and our practice was in trouble, so I was concentrating and focusing on bringing the practice up. I have to work nearly 70-80 hours a week so that I can support about 25 families which depend on the practice.

Since being made aware of the requirements our practice has been fully compliant with all the requirements of Medicare, all my patients have been benefiting from this scheme. Just the fact that Medicare has audited me did not stop me from helping the patients.

Medicare's actions are a source of constant stress and anxiety for me, my family and my staff. Our aim and intention at the time we commenced participation in the scheme was to assist the community and Medicare seems to take advantage of this situation. Where we as dental professionals have provided the treatment to the patients with their consent and to their satisfaction and now Medicare intends to seek recovery and that would mean the we have provided free service and treatment with no reimbursement from the government. That is extremely unfair and unjust by any extent.

I would like the Committee to take into account all circumstances leading up to this situation and pass the new legislation to assist not only the dental practitioners but also the community as a whole as the impact of Medicare's actions have gone beyond just the dental community but permeated the public at large.

Kind Regards,  
Dr. Badrish Krishna