

To Whom it may concern

RE: Medicare Audit.

I have been a willing participant of the Medicare Dental Scheme since its inception.

My only crime is that I have failed to “dot the I’s” and “cross the T’s”. All the dental work was undertaken with the consent of the patient and to my knowledge; all the patients have been satisfied with the outcome.

There was no fraudulent use of item numbers.

Unfortunately, due to obvious political pressures Medicare is demanding all monies to be returned due to an administrative oversight that has no detrimental bearing whatsoever in the dental management of the patient.

This is totally unjust. I was not aware of this administrative requirement until it was raised by the ADA’s newsletter. In response, I have written to every patient and referring medical practitioner that I have treated. I did this because I thought it mattered to Medicare and the outcome of the audit would be education.

Medicare is taking a sledge hammer approach here. The punishment does not fit in the innocent error made by so many dental professionals.

This is the first time that me and my profession has ever been exposed to Medicare and its billing practices. Medicare has not taken adequate steps to properly educate the dental profession.

Hopefully someone in Medicare and the government will come in to their senses and stop demeaning our profession and using us as scapegoats

I am a hard working denture like many others and Medicare’s actions have caused me and family a lot of stress. I participated in this scheme in good faith and with the aim of assisting the community. However, Medicare’s extreme actions have removed my faith in public dentistry and reduced my willingness to participate in any publicly funded scheme of this nature.

I would appreciate that these matters are taken into consideration in reviewing this new legislation.

Yours

Dr Con Lakoumentas