

**Subject:** Senate inquiry to address dental profession concerns regarding Medicare CDDs audits

To Senate Enquiry,

I was unaware of the Chronic diseases dental scheme until (Oct 08) when one of my long time patients presented me with the Referral for Dental Care under Medicare Form.

As far as I am aware we had NOT received any information from Medicare regarding this scheme.

Since then I have treated about 25 patients under the scheme.

Until around a year ago I was unaware of the penalties that can be levied for clerical errors and the prospect of being penalized for appropriate treatment due to a clerical oversight is daunting.

By comparison the scheme run by Veteran Affairs is brilliant. I have participated in this for over 25 years and have not had any problem with it at all.

Any treatment plan may need to be varied as treatment proceeds and the inflexibility is most inconvenient. Added to that one cannot take x-rays at the initial consultation which are often essential before a treatment plan can be drawn up.

If a patient presents with discomfort where a simple dressing would alleviate symptoms this cannot be done. There are many other abnormalities impeding the delivery of prompt and appropriate treatment.

It is my view the scheme should be means tested so that the most needy receive the attention they deserve.

I will continue to participate in the scheme but look forward to amendments that would made it more workable to patients and practioners alike.

Kind Regards

Dr N F Oscar Mclvor