

To The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Reference- Health Insurance (dental Services) Bill 2012 [No.2]

My name is Dr Saima Rizvi; I work as a general practitioner at the Western Suburbs Indigenous gathering place located in .

I have been married to Dr for 9 years now. We both started our careers as medical professionals in .

In our 9 years together we have had many ups and downs as a couple, but we have always managed to emerge out of it with great success but ever since Imran was audited last year our lives have never been the same.

There is this this atmosphere of suffocating silence and tension and even my little boys who are 7 and 3 yrs. of age are feeling it as well. They do not see us laugh as often as we are both stressed. We do not go out on weekends as often. He is constantly preoccupied with the thoughts of “what to expect “and the uncertainty around it.

Imran and most other dentists are baffled by this bizarre chain of events and this senseless stand of Medicare where these dentists who put their heart and soul in providing quality dental care to their patients are now being penalized for not providing a piece of paper which was of no value to the patients as well as to us as general practitioners.

I fail to understand how come we as general practitioners are not required to provide a written plan of action to Medicare when we see our patients and decide to go ahead and do some office based surgical procedures, although in all instances the patients have consented and they understand that this is what is needed for their wellbeing.

To my understanding the same rule should apply to the dentists as well, as they were doing exactly the same thing as us general practitioners. How can Medicare have two different yardsticks to measure the compliance of GPs AND DENTISTS. If it was an absolutely necessary for the dentists to provide that piece of paper to the patients and GPs there should have been some training and clear guidelines sent out to them with particular stress on the fact that in the event that the dentist fails to comply he/she will have to refund all the money charged.

To me and all the people I talk to in regards to this audit, it seems like a big political game just because there is this great unrealistic aspiration to get the budget to a surplus and this is how low this government has to stoop to do it .

If there is anyone that should pay it should be Medicare for not properly educating the dentists regarding this scheme and them not emphasizing the importance of the treatment plans to be provided to the patients after the first consult .

I now conclude by saying that it will be highly immoral and unethical to penalize the innocent dentists who have worked so hard in providing quality dental care to their patients in need and I am the witness of the degree of emotional and physical stress these dentists endure while trying to provide the best dental care to their patients. This Medicare audit is putting an enormous psychological stress and the dentists are getting greatly frustrated by this whole process and it's not just the dentists who are suffering, it's their families who are suffering in silence as well.

Dr.Saima Rizvi