

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Warren Antonoff, I'm a general dentist currently practicing at Lifestylesmiles. I'm writing this as a submission in relation to the Medicare audit related to the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme (CDDS). As a health professional, I've decided, together with many other colleagues to participate in this scheme in an effort to reduce public waiting lists for dental care and give something back to the community. Many of us undertake this scheme by bulk billing patients who cannot afford dental treatment often at a cost of the private practice, for the fees under the scheme is a lot lower than our private costs.

I can understand that paper work is essential to show Medicare of the type of work the dentist will be providing patients. However, as a health professional seldom we could provide a treatment plan without further alterations down the track due to unforeseen circumstances and treatment complications. I myself have tried my best over the years to provide thorough paperwork to the GP referred as well as the patients themselves. However, it is a lot of administrative work for both the practitioner as well as the staff to look over to ensure that it is 100% accurate, needless to say, unpaid for.

I myself haven't been audited by Medicare, however, I know of many colleagues who have and are suffering because of the lack of paperwork provided. And they've been asked to pay back tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars for work they're doing out of good will.

I'm writing this in hope that something can be done to make things more fair for both the public as well as the profession. Audits are essential to catch those who act crime but something may need to be addressed to ensure that those who provide fair treatment are not suffering because of it.

Kind Regards

Dr. Warren Antonoff