

PRESS RELEASE



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TAKE SPECIAL CARE WITH SEDATION FEE CLAIMS, WARNS MDDUS.

Dentists risk falling foul of fraud laws unless they familiarise themselves with regulations on making claims for dental sedation.

The UK-wide dental defence organisation MDDUS warns that some dentists are unclear about the codes relating to such claims and risk being charged with fraud.

Calls for advice to the MDDUS show that there may be some inadvertent misunderstanding of how to claim sedation fees under the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR).

In an alert to dentists, MDDUS points out that the SDR clearly states that for the item 25 (a) (1) or (2) code to be claimed, a dentist **other** than the dentist providing the treatment should provide the sedation.

This would include assessment, cannula placement, and responsibility for discharge of the patients – all of which should be reflected in the dental record.

Where the sedation is provided by the operator the item 25(c) (2) code should be used.

Rachael Bell, dental adviser, warns: "Once again we remind dentists of the need to be accurate in all claims made for NHS treatment and to be familiar with the detail of the SDR in order to prevent accusations of incorrect claiming.

"Failure to comply could result in the inadvertent claiming of an incorrect fee with the result that practitioners have to repay monies incorrectly claimed.

"Repeated inaccurate claims can lead to withholding of fees, disciplinary action by the member's Health Board or even referral to the General Dental Council."

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

Note to editors

MDDUS (The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland) is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK.

For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.