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Our ref: DentalBoard2010-107
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Dental Protection

September 7, 2010



The Registrar,
Dental Board of Australia

AHPRA ,GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE Vic 3001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re – Use of Botox and Dermal Fillers in Dentistry

Dental Protection Limited Australia who provide professional indemnity policies with MDA National as underwriter to the dental profession, is receiving a number of enquiries regarding the use of Botox® and dermal fillers, which are being used to enhance cosmetic dental outcomes.

DPLA is of the opinion that this is stretching the definition of dentistry and really does not fall into the province of a dental treatment. DPLA is aware that some dental Boards prior to 30/6/2010 provided guidelines on this matter, and that the use of such materials was not condoned, and therefore, any indemnity insurance policy would not respond to a claim that may arise from its use. DPLA through its parent MPS in the UK does provide indemnity for its use, because the Greater Dental Council of UK discovered that there was widespread use by dentists for a variety of problems encountered in dental practice. DPLA remains hesitant to be convinced of this, but the many UK dentists applying for registration and indemnity in Australia are enquiring if the same conditions apply here.

I have been advised that Botox cannot be prescribed by dental practitioners and such services should be referred to appropriately qualified providers.

More specifically, some dentists are joining with doctors and nurses to receive training in the use of these materials form the Academy of Aesthetic Medicine, based in the USA, and I have included the anonymous portion of an email from one member asking whether his policy would cover such treatments.

I am sure there have been other enquires about this matter, and it would be useful for all concerned to have some guidelines from DBA in order that DPLA members can be advised correctly.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours faithfully,

David J Evans

Dental Claims Adviser, 80 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, 3205

Dear David,

Thank you very much for your email .

Yes, I certainly asked about it, their words were that the American Board of Aesthetic Medicine made most of their training courses in USA.

Dentists in USA (16% of dentists use Botox in their practice) and in the UK are accredited to use Botox dermafillers in the same way that they use other biomaterials and medicines like bone substitutes membranes, collagens , local anaesthetics, antibiotics, valium and nitrous oxide for dental procedures.

Considering that dentists are in general much more and better trained on head and neck anathomy , physiology and pathology that most medical practitioners and nurses ( who are authorised to handle this materials) and considering that these treatments (dermafillers and Botox) are very low risk and non permanent , it hasn't been an issue from the legal/insurance perspective.

Of course they consider that special training needs to be made as for any other medical procedure.

In regards to Botox it has many uses in dentistry like treatment of overactive muscles that cause "gummy smile" and facial asymmetry due to maseter overfunction and bruxism, the cosmetic side of these treatments is a reality patients get this treatmets done and dentists are within the most qualified professionals in oral and perioral tissues to do it if properly trained.

They couldn't find a reason to deny to dentist the possibilitiy of prescribing and using this products in Australia they did understand that this can affect some doctors, nurses and spas commercial interests though.

I asked as well if they had tried to get the Australian Dental Board accreditation, and they said that they didn't since most of their job was in America and in Australia most of their trainees were not dentists and that would involve time and paperwork.

They did say they were interested though.

I will send the program for your assessment and I would appreciate it if you could inform me what is the next step to take from my side to get this considered by the Board.