

A review of assessments of inappropriate payments in the DTSS

Précis

This paper reviews a recent Department of Health and Children report relating to inappropriate payments in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme in the context of previous research.

Abstract

A recent report, produced for the Department of Health and Children, suggested that inappropriate payments in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme may be above 10%.

Aims

To review past publications on the topic of inappropriate payments in the DTSS and compare their conclusions and methodologies to that of the recent report.

Methods

A literature search (including grey literature) was carried out.

Results

Two studies and three reports were identified as fulfilling the search criteria. The conclusions and methodologies were assessed and compared to the recent report.

Conclusions

There are a number of contrasts between the recent report and previous research. These include: (a) unlike previous research, the recent report does not describe the methodology used to arrive at its estimate; and, (b) the estimate made by the recent report is larger, by a factor of more than two, compared to the sole other estimate made in the previous literature.

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CBCT – the justification process, audit and review of the recent literature

Abstract

As part of the quality assurance programme in a dental radiology referral centre, the reasons for taking cone beam CT (CBCT) images were analysed and the volume sizes of the field of view (FOV) were noted. Eighty CBCT scans were carried out in the period examined. Implant planning accounted for 40% of the scans, 26% were for assessment of lesions of endodontic origin, 19% for assessing impactions and 10% for pathology. A review of the recent literature showed that a CBCT scan gives the potential for an improved diagnosis for the patient and has a great range of clinical applications. The effective dose for some of the more common scans was estimated to enable an assessment of the net benefit of the scan to the patient, and to help in developing a scanning protocol.

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