



SLEEP DISORDER DEVICES

Dear Registrant

The Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board of Queensland is concerned regarding the availability and manufacture of certain dental appliances (ie Mandibular Advancing Device) by dental technicians and dental prosthetists to resolve conditions of sleep disorder. In this area, the Board is concerned that some companies are staying silent in their advertising of dental and/or medical professionals involved in the referral, impression taking and fitting of such devices.

The Board policy states:

From information the Board has received regarding the fitting of the anti-snore device, the Board advises on evidence given to it, that:

1. *the fitting of any snoring devices should not be undertaken by persons other than a specialist dentist and specialist medical practitioner,*
2. *the criteria being that benefits for dentists are payable but require a written referral from a respiratory physician before the benefit is paid; and*
3. *a high percentage of patients treated with snoring devices experience side effects.*

In reply to health funds seeking clarification on this matter, the Board has advised that at this present time, legislation does not permit dental prosthetists to fit the anti-snore device.

Whilst the Board clearly is not banning any such products, the Board is concerned that an element of the industry may not be complying with the above policy. The Board is seeking your organisation's assistance in ensuring that all professions are cognisant of their legal requirements in this area. Breaches of the above may see health practitioners investigated for unprofessional conduct.

David Watson

Assistant Registrar