

Readers Sound Off

To ignore or minimize this issue will erode our noble profession back into a trade.

Standard of Care?

In a recent article published in a dental journal (name not important), the author expounded on dental implants being the current standard of care.

I was both shocked and appalled at the idea of dental implants moving so quickly up the scale to standard of care.

Dental organizations throughout the U.S. must take great umbrage at a small segment, not representing the cross-section of dentistry, taking that issue to an undeserved position, a position backed primarily by the dental products industry.

Carefully analyzing this phenomenon should quickly raise concerns not the least of which is intimidation of general dentists to use/recommend implant therapy, to take fixed replacements (crown and bridge) out of his/her hands in deference to referrals for implants.

The legal implication of taking implants to that standard is frightening, costly and intimidating. Maybe that's the approach the dental products industry thinks will expand their business.

If we allow this escalation to occur unchallenged, we will soon be a trade dominated by manufacturers, third-party payers and other

special interest groups. A frightening prospect.

Maybe you can spearhead a campaign to interpret this progression, to take control of our profession, expand your leadership muscle.

Theodore T. Fortier, DDS, FACD, PA, FADI

Assessing 'Real Science'

The paper *Assessing 'Real Science': Poor Studies, Industry Ties Taking Toll* is the most lucid, incisive essay describing the collective ethical "toothache" that has been troubling dentistry (and allied health professions) for quite some time; lately it's becoming more evident.

Ms. Janyce Hamilton is a gifted writer with the capacity to take a complex, multi-faceted subject and report it to our profession as a compelling cautionary tale. Every member of our profession should become conversant with this issue so we can take more preventative measures (described by Ms. Hamilton) to reduce the influence of money and favors on our hard, basic and clinical science. To ignore or minimize this issue will erode our noble profession back into a trade and betray the trust that was placed in us when we became doctors of dental medicine.

Stephen Cohen, DDS