

Possible use of Wickline v State of California and its possible aid in dental insurance reimbursement on specific cases.

The description below came from a dental office. Please research the case and its use on your own if you for verification or additional information.

This is how one office manager used the case:

She sent a letter to the insurance along with a specific narrative stating:

What is it?

- Some dentists have a narrative that they submit with dental insurance claims that mention "Wickline and Wilson Cases".

What does the narrative say?

- The most common one contains this wording: *"This letter will also serve as formal notice, per the Wickline and Wilson Cases of our responsibility advocating the appropriate treatment for this patient. Should this patient have suffered future damages as a result of an inappropriate insurance denial, the insurance company would be held responsible for any damages."*

When is this done?

- Some offices include it with any claim that includes a separate narrative.
- Some offices include it only with claims that are being appealed.
- Some offices include it only with claims that are for procedures that might not normally be contractual benefits on a patient's insurance plan, or might be assigned a lower alternate benefit.

Will this be detrimental to a submitted claim?

- Maybe. Maybe not. It might make the claim stand out from other claims, which generally results in the claim getting more attention; a red flag. This could have positive or negative results, depending on all the other information presented in the claim.

I have heard; however, from various office managers (and online some online sources agree), that in some cases referencing this case has been effective.

A Dr. R.B. Stanton stated online:

As you may know, the standard of care for lower dentures is a two implant overdenture. I send a narrative and reference the Wickline and Wilson Cases (research this if you are unfamiliar) which transposes liability to the insurance company and they pay. If the patient cannot eat properly and is losing weight with a conventional denture, send a Wilson/Wickline letter and they'll get covered.

<http://www.osseonews.com/establishing-medical-necessity-for-dental-implants-for-insurance/>

Please note: I am NOT a lawyer nor a dentist and am NOT making any legal arguments in any way regarding the information above. I have simply heard from various office managers and seen statements (like that above) online stating this reference has helped. I am not specifically endorsing this information in any legal way and cannot be held responsible for any resulting actions by insurance companies. The description of the case came from a dental office - I am not responsible for its veracity or accuracy. Please research it further for more specifics. You are responsible for use of this information.