

tained through misrepresentation or fraud.

A consent to treatment is informed if before giving it:

a) The patient giving consent received information about the treatment that a reasonable patient in the same circumstances would require to make a decision regarding treatment;

b) All questions regarding treatment received responses.

In order to be informed, the patient must understand the nature of treatment, its benefits, risks, side effects, alternative courses of action and likely consequences of not having treatment. How detailed is your case presentation?

The original salesperson at Lafayette should have explained

the lack of cooperation between Vuitton and the department store. Incidentally Printemps, another department store one block away, did explain, right up front, that certain designers did not honour the discount.

As you can see, informed consent for prosthodontic patients is rigorous and certainly not a one fits all scenario (tapes may just not do it). Consent goes even further, implied or express and may involve a team of caregivers. Once entered into, all practitioners are liable for the outcome and possibly for one another. How confident are you in the skills of your team? Sobering facts in the light that prosthodontics is second only to oral surgery in civil and collegial litigation.

I solved my shopping dilemma by switching department stores.

What do patients do? For dentists and dental specialists, help is close at hand in Risk Management from organizations like Canadian Dental Protective Association (CDPA), a unique mutual benefit (non insurance) society. As ethical practitioners, we must strive to conform to the letter of the law and provide the best treatment based on a comprehensive examination and scientific evidence. However when problems occur we need to have the opportunity to avail ourselves of objective, non-emotional advice, from individuals with no vested interest in the outcome. Associations like CDPA are there to support us by providing advice from clinically based like-minded colleagues. Through membership in CDPA we support ourselves and our practices in a most effective manner.

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