



## letters

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Letters to the Editor should be addressed to:

**The Editor,  
Evidence-Based Dentistry,  
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From Mr N Monaghan

The Editorial by Paul Batchelor (vol 2 p5–6) gave a very helpful explanation of the legal and ethical implications of evidence-based clinical guidelines.

Your readers should however be aware that such guidelines are now evaluated in a new legal framework, following the introduction of new court procedure rules in the UK. Now there is only one professional witness whose opinion is brought to the court. This means that rather than choosing between differing expert opinions, the Judge will be guided by a single opinion, which may or may not support the guideline.

The practical implications here are that it will be harder to defend a case where a clinician has not followed a guideline. It is for individual practitioners to decide how they wish to proceed, based on this.

**Mr N Monaghan  
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