Aided of course by our very own BDA wearing its trade union hat.

L. J. Brinton, Wissett

1. Sheikh S, Khalid O, Bashir Y. Personal account: A drop of dentistry in the jungle. *Br Dent J* 2016; **220**: 160–163.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2016.240

PROPHYLAXIS GUIDELINES

Repeated points

Sir, we think it would be appropriate for you to consider the issue of redundancy in the Opinion piece published by Martin Thornhill and colleagues.¹ The authors repeated many points made in an Opinion piece published in your journal in 2015.² Although they did cite the previous piece in the recent article as reference 12, we are concerned that the content of the two articles overlaps quite heavily. Similarly, Thornhill and colleagues rely for this recent article on re quoting data from the paper they published in *The Lancet*. Again, this is clearly cited, but in both cases the authors fail to acknowledge or discuss that NICE has already considered the points in detail and responded publicly, both in

the guidance document and the table of stakeholder comment published on NICE's website. This omission is more surprising as one of Thornhill's co-authors was a member of the NICE guidance committee and so clearly knew of these responses.

P. Alderson, M. Baker, Manchester

1. Thornhill M H, Dayer M, Lockhart P B *et al*. Guidelines on prophylaxis to prevent infective endocarditis. *Br Dent J* 2016; **220**: 51–56.
2. Thornhill M H, Lockhart P B, Prendergast B, Chambers J B, Shanson D. NICE and antibiotic prophylaxis to prevent endocarditis. *Br Dent J* 2015; **218**: 619–621.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2016.241

Position statement FAQs

Sir, the Opinion section of the *BDJ* provides a valuable opportunity for authors to present their individual views and opinions for debate and discussion. For the busy practitioner, however, the consensus view of organisations like NICE and the equivalent organisations in the devolved jurisdictions within the UK, are recognised bodies of opinion that can help inform their individual clinical decisions. These organisations review their guidance from time to time and the use of antibiotic prophylaxis during dental treatment has

recently been the subject of further review by NICE that did not result in any material change to their existing guidance.¹

At Dental Protection we receive many hundreds of calls from members and we update our online advice to address new concerns that are received by the 24/7 Helpline. Recently an Opinion in the *BDJ* by Thornhill *et al*.² resulted in an unusually large number of calls from dentists, hygienists and therapists who were now confused about the recently reviewed (but unaltered) guidance published by NICE.

Dental Protection has now added a series of FAQs to the position statement on the website to address those concerns. I hope your readers will find it helpful.³

D. Croser, Dental Protection

1. NICE Guidance. Prophylaxis against infective endocarditis. March 2008. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg64> (accessed March 2016).
2. Thornhill M H, Lockhart P B, Prendergast B, Chambers J B, Shanson D. NICE and antibiotic prophylaxis to prevent endocarditis. *Br Dent J* 2015; **218**: 619–621.
3. Dental Protection. Antibiotic prophylaxis FAQs. Available at: <http://www.dentalprotection.org/uk/antibiotic-prophylaxis-faqs> (accessed March 2016).

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2016.242