

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report on the activities of 2023

Country: The Netherlands

Association: Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT)

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

Changes

in the association and its organisation

- Due to the departure of the director Erik Markus, Mirjam Bijnsdorp has been appointed as interim director, effective October 1, 2023.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics

- Minister Conny Helder of VWS receives the research report "Stop the Stacking" from the First-line Coalition, of which KNMT is a member. The report demonstrates that administrative burdens resulting from legislation significantly impact healthcare in a negative manner.

- KNMT, together with the associations LHV (GP's), FMS (Medical Specialists), and VvAA (doctors in general), responds to Minister Van Gennip's legislative proposal "Clarification on assessment of employment relationships and legal presumption" (Wet Vbar). The plea from the healthcare alliances is to preserve the option to use self-employed professionals (zzp'ers).

- Board member Rinke Rinke Blok signs the Green Deal "Samen werken aan Duurzame Zorg 3.0" (Working Together for Sustainable Healthcare 3.0). With this, KNMT demonstrates dentists' active commitment to sustainability in the oral care sector.

in health and social politics

- As of July 1 2023 The Law on Electronic Data Exchange (Wegiz) has come into effect.

- Extension of the annual accountability obligation under The Act on the Admission of Healthcare Providers (WTZA) until December 31, 2023

- Abolition of the 2 year rule for re-registration in the Individual Health Care Professions Register (BIG), with the consequence that dentists are still eligible for re-registration after a period of 2 years without practising.

- The Oral Health Care Alliance presents Minister Ernst Kuipers with the guideline "Acute and necessary oral care for financially vulnerable individuals." This is intended to contribute to preventing avoidance of oral care due to financial reasons.

in educational politics

-KNMT and the universities have concerns about the quality of the dentistry study since the government intends to reduce the duration of the dentistry studies from 6 to 5 years and develops strategies to push back on this decision.

in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes)

- The Oral Health Care alliance informs the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) of its objections to the legislative proposal amending the Health Insurance Act regarding contracting. This proposal would effectively eliminate the freedom of choice of healthcare providers and increase the purchasing power of health insurers.

Corporate Dentistry

position of NDA towards dental chains

- The position of KNMT on dental chains is in development and has not been made public yet.

problems with dental chains

- The Dutch Healthcare and Youth Inspectorate (IGJ) visited five oral care chains in the Netherlands in January and February 2020 to assess the quality and safety of oral care within these chains. The outcomes offer opportunities to improve oral care quality, and the report is moderately positive, with no mention of misconduct.¹

possible solutions

- Formulate standpoints and policies based on the relevant data and principles, such as maintaining quality and accessibility of dental care for all.

- Last year witnessed significant societal and political attention on the role of private equity investors in healthcare, spurred by incidents in commercial (GP) healthcare chains. In response to motions passed by the Parliament, the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport commissioned a study by EY to objectively assess the impact of private equity financing on healthcare. The study revealed 35 active private equity entities in healthcare sectors covered by the Health Insurance Act and Long-Term Care Act, with varying influence across sectors. However, no discernible differences were found, based on available data, between institutions with private equity involvement and those without concerning quality, accessibility, and affordability of care. Subsequently, further deliberation on the findings, in conjunction with Parliament's motions, is underway, with a comprehensive response slated for the second quarter of 2024.

Changes in fees:

In the Netherlands the maximum rates per dental procedure are established by the National Health Authority (NZA). Starting January 1, 2023, the indexation for dental procedures will be 5.2%, and for orthodontic procedures, it will be 5.5%.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

World Oral Health Day has been promoted via the various communication channels and has been made available to our members for further communications with patients.

Further information (activities):

See above

What are your 3 main concerns?

- Growing shortage of dentists and dental professionals combined with an increase in demand for (complex) dental care due to aging population
- The minister's intention to shorten the duration of the dental education from 6 to 5 years affecting the quality of dental care in a negative way.
- Persistent and further increasing stacking of administrative burdens for dentists

¹ <https://www.igj.nl/publicaties/rapporten/2020/11/19/rapport-goed-bestuur-bij-mondzorg>



- The government's granting authority to lower-educated professionals by law to hygienists for example (task redistribution) instead of promoting task delegation within dental teams under the supervision of a dentist. Task redistribution causes fragmentation and negatively impacts the quality of care.

3 points you would like to discuss

- Quality of dental studies in Europe/ competence profile
- DIY dentistry
- Capacity of the workforce