

European Regional Organisation of the FDI  
National Report

**National Report for France 2021**  
**\* French Dental Association/Association dentaire française (ADF) \***  
ERO Plenary Session – Bucharest – 29-30 April 2022

## Changes in the association and its organisation

Nothing to report

## Trends and Developments

### Professional Politics

#### National Agreement

Signed in 2018, the National Agreement entered in 2021 a third phase of "care-prostheses rebalancing", with the revaluation of root canal procedures and an increase, for the third time running after 2019 and 2020, in the price of dental restorations. Simultaneously, the price of removable resin prostheses and dental repairs was capped and integrated into the "100% health care basket", meaning that patients have nothing to pay from their own pocket. It is worth noting that the number of inlays and onlays doubled between 2018 and 2020.

#### EXPRESO

"*L'Expérimentation de Prévention en Santé Orale*" or so-called "EXPRESO" experiment, which is included in the National Agreement, aims at improving the oral and general health of 18-to-21-year-old adults by financing prevention packages to help prevent a vast majority of oral lesions. Three packages have been defined for three levels of risk:

- a low-risk package at €120/year
- a high-risk package at €200/year
- an extremely high-risk package at €275/year

Each package includes an annual evaluation of the three main diseases (carious lesions, periodontal lesions, and erosion) and, where necessary, the corresponding care.

### Europe

#### Cobalt

Following the classification of cobalt as a carcinogenic and mutagen substance toxic to reproduction (CMR), and considering that cobalt composes about 60% of the Cr-Co alloys used, in particular, in fixed

prosthetics (cast metal crowns and ceramic-metallic crowns), removable partial metal dentures, and orthodontics (attachments and other medical devices), the ADF and its member organisation *Les Chirurgiens-dentistes de France* (Les CDF), the largest professional dental union, have brought to the attention of the public authorities the direct and indirect consequences of these regulatory provisions, as well as possible replacements to cobalt and, where not possible, the appropriate course of action.

### Partial Access

The European Court of Justice has rejected the appeal filed by Les CDF against the transposition into French law of the possibility of partial access to the medical professions. As a consequence, **non-dentists from EU Member States can from now on perform several dental procedures that, until now, were exclusive to dentists.**

## Dental Team

### Training

Starting from 2022, dental assistants, in addition to their usual duties and competencies, can train for two additional skills: administration and periodontics-implantology (according to the training and competencies repository validated by the authorities in 2021). Each module comprises 100 hours of training.

### Level 2 Dental Assistant

Despite a consensus among the various unions of the dental sector, few advances have been made on the topic. After validation in 2018 of the list of duties and delegated tasks, 2021 offered the opportunity to draft a specific training programme.

A presentation on the subject was given on Thursday 25 November 2021 during the *Congrès de l'ADF*, the ADF Annual Dental Meeting.

## Education - Training

### Periodic Certification

A decree was published to clarify the objectives of the healthcare bill (*Loi Santé*) adopted in France in March 2019, which imposes re-certification for healthcare professionals. Thus, dentists as well as general practitioners, midwives, pharmacists, nurses, masseur-physiotherapists, and chiropractors must undertake, over six-year periods, a minimal programme of activities that will enable them to:

- Bring their knowledge and skills up to date.
- Reinforce the quality of their professional practice.
- Improve their relations with their patients.
- Better take into account their own health.

These activities will be recorded for each healthcare professional in an individual account.

A French national council in charge of periodic certification will define the strategy, implementation, and promotion of the new system, which will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

Periodic certification will be mandatory for all professions that have a governing association, and will be implemented progressively for those professionals already in practice. Consequently:

- new graduates will have six years to comply, which sets the first certification deadline to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2029.
- Dentists already in practice on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 will have nine years to complete the activities required for their first certification process, which sets their certification deadline to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2032 at the latest.

## **Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day**

- **The "My Dentist told me" campaign**

**From 15 to 20 March, the French Union for Oral Health (*Union française pour la Santé bucco-dentaire* – UFSBD), an ADF member organisation, posted a different video every day on its social media and YouTube pages – six quirky videos each presenting a "good habit" for optimal oral hygiene.**

Because oral health is most definitely at the core of good health, the UFSBD imagined a series of six deliberately quirky videos to encourage internet users to adopt daily "good resolutions" for their oral health.

The series, posted under the title "My dentist told me", presented six aspects of oral hygiene:

- Oral hygiene is elementary
- Fluoride makes you stronger
- A balanced diet for a healthy mouth
- See your dentist regularly
- To stay in good health, take care of your mouth
- Summary

The use of social media helped to reach an extremely wide audience and meant that people could interact with each other. The aim of the campaign was to give a positive image of oral health because, in these tormented times, keeping a smile on your face, and looking after that smile, is essential, even behind a mask.

## **Further information: the ADF**

- **The ADF celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

In 2020, The French Dental Association celebrated 50 years of existence and seized the occasion to change its logo, revamp its institutional website *adf.asso.fr* and reaffirm its commitment to support, defend and train the dental profession (*Accompagner – Défendre – Former*). The celebration party, postponed in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, was held in June 2021 and brought together the whole of the dental profession and the dental trade.

- **The ADF Annual Dental Meeting, *le Congrès de l'ADF***

The 2021 *Congrès de l'ADF* was held from Tuesday 23 until Saturday 27 November at the Palais des Congrès de Paris. This year, the dental profession's annual Parisian get-together confirmed its position as premier European dental meeting by attracting 25,000 attendees, despite the ongoing health crises.

The event provided the opportunity to meet 350 exhibitors across 12,400 sqm of stand and to listen to world-renowned specialists who took part in a scientific programme of over 100 sessions with 360 speakers.

Save the date! The next *Congrès de l'ADF* will take place 22-26 November 2022.

- **Sustainable Development**

As early as 2012, the ADF started leading the dental profession towards sustainable development by conducting a digital awareness and information campaign on eco-friendly actions in the dental surgery. This ongoing work resulted, in 2021, in the publication of a new practical guide, and the organisation of a dedicated session during the *Congrès de l'ADF 2021 "Sustainable Development in the Dental Surgery, a Win-Win strategy"*.

- **The fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

The increase of antimicrobial resistance being a major public health issue, and France ranking as the third largest consumer of antibiotics in Europe, it is essential to educate the dental profession in better prescription practices. The ADF has undertaken several actions to this purpose:

- an online training programme to learn to fight antimicrobial resistance, available since 2020 "*Savoir prescrire pour limiter l'antibiorésistance*".
- the preparation in 2021 of two publications that will be made available in February 2022:
  - an issue of the ADF's new free digital magazine *Tooth* entirely dedicated to AMR.
  - A practical online guide detailing the rules of antibiotic prescriptions in dentistry.

In addition, the ADF signed in October 2021 the *FDI Pledge on Antibiotic Resistance*.

## **Points we would like to discuss**

- Professional demographics and the quality of training.
- Number of years of study and initial training in the various European countries.