

*European Regional Organisation of the FDI
National Report*

**France 2018
French Dental Association
/Association dentaire française (ADF)
ERO Plenary Session
Frankfurt, 25-27 April 2019**

I. Changes in the association and its organisation

The French Dental Association: Association dentaire française (ADF) will hold its triennial elections for office in the association's governing bodies in April, a few days before the ERO plenary in Frankfurt.

II. Trends and developments

- In professional politics

A new national agreement was signed between the dental profession, the national health insurance fund and private insurance companies in May 2018. The new agreement builds a model of dental care more focused on prevention and improves the financial coverage of care and prostheses but restricts practitioners' fees.

The provisions of the agreement will be implemented progressively over a number of years. They include:

- capped rates for certain prostheses;
- the revaluation of routine dental treatments;
- new prevention campaigns for young people and children;
- better management of more vulnerable populations (people suffering from diabetes, persons under anticoagulant treatment, mentally handicapped patients).

The first provisions, in particular capped rates for crowns, will come into force on 1st April 2019.

The aim of zero out-of-pocket payments for all patients by 2022 promised by French President Emmanuel Macron remains on the agenda and will be implemented through the creation of a health care basket with mandatory regulated rates and no possible waivers.

In conformity with the new agreement, zero out-of-pocket payments will be effective for dental crowns and bridges starting from 2020, and for removable prostheses from 2021, with capped rates for composite bridges and inlay/onlay prostheses. All dental care rates will be capped by 2022.

A medical and economic rebalancing will thus take place that will enable better access for all to dental health care, for an estimated cost of €1.2 bn.

- **In health and social politics**

A health care bill was submitted to the French cabinet of ministers at the start of February 2019. It has real ambitions for improving access to – and the provision of – health care across the country.

Many measures aim at better distributing health care and making it more accessible. New local hospitals will bring care closer to patients and ensure that a minimum of quality technical facilities are accessible to all, including in medically underserved areas.

With regard liberal practice, the introduction of medical assistants will leave more time for doctors to concentrate on clinical activities and to focus on their patients.

The validation of telecare is also a potential improvement for patients.

No concrete measure has yet been announced to solve the problem of the deficit in the provision of dental care.

- **In educational politics**

• **Initial training**

The President of the French Republic announced in September 2018 that health care studies would undergo a complete overhaul that should become effective in 2022, with the aim to better meet the needs of populations both on the national and the regional levels.

During a press conference given last February, the French Minister of Health detailed several key measures, including the end of the *numerus clausus* for medical professions, starting with doctors in 2020: their numbers will increase significantly in order to meet the regional demand. In the long term, an increase of 20% is envisaged.

The primary objective is to provide access to health care studies from a variety of channels and at different levels during the first three years, even if the whole process remains demanding and selective. Starting from the start of the school year 2020, the number of students in the four fields of study (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and midwifery) will thus no longer be set by the State but by the universities.

With regard dental studies, specific measures will be announced at a second stage after consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The reform should enter into force in 2020 also.

Project for the reform of doctoral studies

The reform includes two main areas of focus:

1. 6th year of studies to become year of Specialist diploma in general dentistry (*Diplôme d'études spécialisées (DES) d'odontologie générale*)

Dental studies will thus become similar to medical studies in their organisation and enable the recruitment of staff for university hospitals, with possible access to the position of Head of university clinic-Hospital assistant (*Chef de clinique des universités-assistant des hôpitaux – CCU-HA*)

2. End of the internship in oral medicine and creation of four new specialist diplomas (*Diplôme d'études spécialisées – DES*) in paedodontics, periodontics, complex prosthetic rehabilitation, and endodontics.

Due to the many disagreements that the project provokes, the reform has been postponed to a later date.

- **Continuing education**

Dentists practising in France **are required to participate in continuing education. They have the obligation** to complete three hours of continuing professional development (*Développement professionnel continu – DPC*) every three years, on subjects relevant to national and public health priorities.

To meet this obligation, the dental profession offers training programmes that enable practitioners to choose **additional, voluntary training courses** to complement the three mandatory hours imposed by CPD, which are deemed totally insufficient. This additional training is of three days a year, i.e. 63 hours every three years.

The French Dental Association, for its part, offers continuing education opportunities all throughout the year, the highlight of which is its Annual Dental Meeting in November – the *Congrès de l'ADF 2018* boasted over 100 scientific lectures. The ADF also proposes monthly live online chats and regular online CPD modules that are also very successful.

- **In the insurance system (public and private health insurance schemes)**

The relations between the different stakeholders of the dental profession have been redefined in a new national agreement. See item II – *Professional politics* for details.

- **in dental care for asylum seekers or refugees**

No specific measures have been implemented for these populations. Persons who are legally present on the French territory can go to any dental surgery to receive dental treatment for

free – the dentists are paid by a dedicated organisation. Illegal aliens may receive dental treatment from non-governmental organisations.

III. Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day

The French Union for Oral Health: Union Française pour la Santé Bucco-dentaire (UFSBD), an ADF member organisation, organises specific activities on behalf of the French dental profession. In 2019, the UFSBD will repeat the Springtime of Smiles campaign (*Printemps du Sourire*) that aims at encouraging the population to adopt good oral health habits. The campaign includes an online survey of the general public, press conferences, and information outlets in pharmacies.

IV. Further information

The ADF 2019 Annual Dental Meeting (*Congrès ADF 2019*) will be held from Tuesday 26 until Saturday 30 November 2019 at the Palais des Congrès de Paris, Porte Maillot. This meeting, the largest European dental meeting with over 27 000 visitors, combines in one single venue an international exhibition (23 000 m² and 400 exhibitors) and a scientific programme (over 100 lectures and workshops, including a large selection in English, and over 400 speakers).

V. Main concerns

French dentists are currently very concerned about the implementation of the new national agreement, the first part of which will come into force in April 2019. The new agreement incurs significant and very complex changes to the coding of medical procedures and tariffs and fees, making practitioners worry mostly, for the moment, about technical aspects.

Another concern stems from the continuing massive inflow into France of dental graduates with foreign diplomas. These dentists have neither been selected nor trained with the same demanding requirements as in France, which gives rise to serious problems with regard the dental care provided to the population. The upcoming end of the *numerus clausus* in France, which will enable the training of a greater number of dentists in France, should improve the situation.

VI. Points we would like to discuss

Number of years of study and initial training in the various European countries.