



European Regional Organisation of the FDI

National Report

ERO Plenary Session Frankfurt, Germany 26 – 27 April 2019

Country: Poland
Association: Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists

Changes in the association and its organisation

The Polish National Committee for ERO FDI is formed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and the Polish Dental Society.

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists is the main professional organization in Poland. It is the organizational body of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners who are associated in the chambers with equal status. Membership is mandatory. Every physician and every dental practitioner who holds the right to practice the profession in Poland is a member of the chamber by virtue of the law. There are 23 Regional Chambers and a separate chamber of military physicians and dentists. The Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists coordinates the work of regional chambers.

In Fall 2017 and early 2018 elections took place in regional chambers. In 6 out of 23 regional chambers the new presidents are dental practitioners.

In May 2018 the XIV National Assembly of Physicians and Dentists took place in Warsaw. Prof. Andrzej Matyja was elected as the President of the Supreme Medical Council for the next 4 years' term of office. Following that the Supreme Medical Council, its Board and committees were also elected. One of the 3 vice-presidents is dr Andrzej Cisło, dental practitioner.

The international activities of the Supreme Chamber are coordinated by the newly established Centre of International Cooperation with a board of 7 persons, incl. 2 dental practitioners: dr Anna Lella and dr Radosław Maksymowicz, and legal-administrative assistance of Marek Szewczyński from the Supreme Chamber's office.

Trends and developments:

in professional politics & in educational politics

The Chamber is engaged in drafting amendments to the law on the professions of a physician and a dentist.

The aim of this comprehensive legislative work is to introduce major changes to the part of this law regarding postgraduate training of medical doctors and dentists – incl. the postgraduate internship, specialist training, continuing education. The role of the chambers in medical postgraduate training is to be strengthened.

in the insurance system

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

No major changes in the reporting period.

Public expenditure on oral care is still low, and the private insurance market has not yet developed well. Nevertheless, according to a report by one of the research companies the market of dental services in Poland is constantly developing and this should continue to be the case. The private segment is the growth driver - stable growth is stimulated by private spending. Due to stagnation in the public segment, the private segment of dental services will drive the entire market.

The market is driven by the growing awareness of Poles about the importance of oral health, as well as about the aesthetics of their appearance.

in dental care for persons applying for asylum or refugees

The numbers of persons applying for asylum in Poland or refugees is still relatively low and these persons are provided basic dental and medical treatment by the healthcare facilities managed by the Ministry of Interior Affairs – the costs are covered by the state budget.

Dental care is very basic, mostly centred on pain relief.

Corporate Dentistry:

position of NDA towards dental chains

Until now the Chamber has not taken any official position towards dental chains since this is not yet occurring in a way it is in some other European countries.

Following the adoption of 'the ERO Resolution on third party financed dental ambulatory healthcare centres run by non-dentists' and subsequently 'the CED Resolution on Corporate Dentistry' Polish dental practitioners were informed about the situation in Spain. This topic was thoroughly discussed by dentists in social media and other discussion fora.

problems with dental chains and possible solutions

The possible problems concerning the dental chains owned by individuals or companies formed by persons who are not dental professionals will most likely be

similar to those already indicated by colleagues from other countries and in the ERO 2018 Resolution on third party financed dental ambulatory healthcare centres run by non-dentists.

This model of providing dental care is in our view likely to be profit-driven and in consequence it may influence decisions about dental therapy, encourage overtreatment and compromise quality of dental care, influence negatively dental care systems.

The Polish Chamber since a few years advocates an amendment in Polish law whereby in every healthcare facility, regardless of who is its legal owner, the chief executive officer should be a medical professional (medical doctor or dentist) who is bound to act in accordance with the principles of medical and dental ethics not only when providing treatment himself but also within the managerial activities.

Changes in fees:

No major changes in the reporting period.

Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:

Each year Polish dentists and students of dentistry are celebrating the World Oral Health Day and organize various events to promote oral health and to raise public awareness of its significance.

The resources prepared by FDI have been again translated into Polish and made available for patients in printed form and online. These materials were generally regarded as interesting, well edited and useful.

Numerous events are taking place – e.g. press conferences, articles and interviews in media, posts on social media, posters, screening tests, art competitions in kindergartens.

Further information (activities):

- the Polish Dental Society started an active campaign addressed to graduates of dentistry to raise their interest in engaging themselves in the works of professional organizations;

- in summer a joint action of laryngologists and periodontologists took place in popular Polish resorts – the medical and dental practitioners carried out tests and provided advice and information to holiday-makers; this campaign was concluded and summed up at the meeting in the Polish Senate; later a debate of periodontologists and diabetologists led to a review of the food pyramid and addition of information about the significance of oral health;

- in September in Poznań the Polish Dentistry Union Congress accompanied the 27th Central European Dental Exhibition (CEDE) and included lectures under the auspices of ERO and FDI.

What are your 3 main concerns?

In fact, we can repeat the 3 concerns already indicated in the previous report, since not much has changed in this regard:

- dramatically low level of public expenditure on healthcare in Poland, incl. oral care – private expenditure, although rising, is not enough to properly cover the oral health needs of population;
- too many administrative requirements related to the exercise of dental profession which are time consuming and costly;
- lack of understanding among the decision makers of the significance of oral health.

3 points you would like to discuss

- the development of dental chains (corporate dentistry as referred to be the CED) should be closely monitored by ERO, also with a focus on countries which are not in the EU/EEA, and experiences on how to oppose it should be exchanged and analysed;
- continue the cooperation with universities and young dentists/students (EDSA).
- 3D printing in dentistry;



Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists

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