

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: Netherlands

Association: NMT

Venue: Nieuwegein

Year: 2014

Please classify your national report by the following subjects:

I. *Changes in the association and its organisation.*

The NMT-board consists of:

Rob Barnasconi, chair/president

Tijmen Hiep, vice president/treasurer

Alexander Tolmeijer, vice president

Hendrike van Drie, vice president

Maren de Wit, vice president

In 2014, NMT is celebrating its centennial anniversary. On that occasion, His Royal Highness King Willem-Alexander has granted NMT the predicate 'Royal'. Consequently, as from February 14th of this year, NMT will be known as the Royal Dutch Dental Association (*Koninklijke Nederlandse Maatschappij tot bevordering der Tandheelkunde (KNMT)*)

II. *Trends and developments:*

- *in professional politics;* none

- *in health politics;*

1. A free-pricing experiment in dental healthcare started on 1 January 2012. The objective of the experiment was to improve choices and transparency for patients, in addition to innovation and cost control. The initial experiment period

was three years, with a possible two-year extension. A number of conditions were imposed to ensure the experiment's success:

- Dentists should provide insight into the quality of the care they offer. Indicators and patient surveys have been developed to that end;
- Mandatory price transparency and information about the dental healthcare practice providers.

However a report issued by the Healthcare Authority (NZa) started a political discussion on the progress of the experiment. The NZa reported an increase of 9,6% in prices, which led to political discontent and a decision within the parliament to stop the free-pricing experiment. Due to January 1, 2013, the prices are regulated again.

To substantiate the rates, the Healthcare Authority now launched an investigation to determine revenues, costs and production of dental practices. Because it is unclear which parameters the Healthcare Authority will handle the outcome is very uncertain. This causes a lot of uncertainty within the profession, on top of a turbulent year 2012 with experimental free rates.

This study is not yet completed. Results are to be expected in the course of 2014. In the meantime the NMT started a consultation with the Minister to develop new design of the funding system of the dental healthcare in the Netherlands, starting in 2015.

2. Under the influence of European regulations, the new Radiation Protection Decree came into force on 1 January 2014. In the run-up to 1 January 2014, the NMT has amended its Dental Radiology Practice Guidelines. The revised guidelines focus on a responsible and effective implementation of X-ray diagnostics in dental medicine and provide recommendations for the correct use of X-rays in dental diagnostics.

- *in educational politics;*

In the 'Kamer Mondzorg' project, scientific associations, professional bodies and educational institutions in the dental care sector are currently working together on a national body for the development of guidelines. The project focuses on quality in dental care.

- *in the insurance system (including public health insurance and private insurance schemes);*

see "health politics".

III. *Further information (activities, concerns).*

The number of dentists with foreign qualifications coming to the Netherlands continues to increase each year. This is evident from the Capacity Plan 2013 that was recently published by the Capaciteitsorgaan, a foundation for advanced medical and dental programmes. The foundation's report also recommends increasing the number of places available for prospective dentistry students. The Dutch Dental Association (NMT) supports the foundation's proposal to train more dentists in the future.