

NATIONAL REPORT 2017

Pays: Switzerland
Organisation: Swiss Dental Association SSO
Séances: ERO – 13th/14th April 2018 in Salzburg
CED – 25th/26th May 2018 in Tallin

I. Changes in the National Association and its organisation

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II. Trends and developments

« Initiative vaudoise » for the reimbursement of dental care

This popular initiative threatens two essential principles that the SSO has been defending for many years:

- the individual responsibility of the patient and
- the free choice of therapy that is the sole responsibility of the patient and his / her dentist

The future of the liberal exercise of the profession and the future of young practitioners is at stake. The Vaudois citizens will ultimately decide by vote on March 4, 2018 and have rejected the initiative with 57.4% of the votes.

Activity of Dental Prevention Assistants (PA) in institutions

Demographic studies show that people in Europe are aging ineluctably. Already today, there are not enough dental hygienists to provide dental hygiene for older people in retirement and nursing homes. It is therefore essential to be able to delegate this task to DPAs. The regulation stipulates that in institutions the DPA is only allowed to treat patients without the direct supervision of a dentist after triage by the dentist and after having had further training in geriatric dental medicine.

Secure data transfer

It is clear from the Federal Data Protection Act (DPA) that personal data relating to the health of a person are part of so-called sensitive data.

In order to meet the requirements of the DPA, every dentist must use encryption to protect data transferred over electronic networks.

III. Migration

Switzerland remains subject to massive immigration of dentists from the EU. 5482 degrees have been granted to date.

In line with the partial revision of the Medical Professions Act (MPA), language skills for practicing the profession require a minimum B2 level of the European reference framework for languages.

IV. Changes of the tariff

Swiss dentists waited a long time for a revision of the dental tariff. This was completed in 2017. After many years of difficult and complex negotiations, the insurers and the SSO have managed to conclude the new tariff agreement "DENTOTAR" which also constitutes a revision of the fee billing basis.

V. Main concerns

- Since the entry into force of the Bilateral Agreements, though since June 2002, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) has recognized 5482 diplomas of foreign dentists. A clear increase in the pace of recognition has been noted since the entry into force of the Bilateral Agreements 2 in 2009. Since then and until today, the qualifications recognized by the FOPH have been 4.4 times higher than those awarded by our universities since 1890!
- The dentist diploma is based on at least 5000 hours of training in 5 years at a university or an institution of a level recognized as equivalent. This criterion alone is not enough and the recently published study under the aegis of the European Dental Student's Association has shown that 10% of dental graduates in the EU have graduated without any clinical experience.

Further information:

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