

ERO resolution on the condition of possible delegation within the dental team

Dentistry is a complex medical science with high standards. A dental treatment calls for special knowledge, acquired with at least five years of fulltime University education, according to the European directives in force. It is the minimal level of education necessary to ensure patient's safety, which is attained only by the dentist and not by any other member of the dental team.

The dentist is in principle obliged to provide dental care personally, however, in compliance with national regulations, the dentist may delegate to other dental team members certain performance of an activity or set of activities that form part of the overall dental care. In any case it is the dentist who is personally liable to the patient for the overall treatment.

Dental care that is to be provided personally by the dentist includes in particular:

- Examination of the patient
- Diagnosing and explanation
- Decision making of all steps of dental treatments
- Therapy planning
- Invasive diagnostic and therapeutic interventions
- Injections and all kind of surgical interventions

All members of the dental team must have the education and training appropriated for their competences and be legally allowed to participate in the delivery of oral health care, always under supervision and responsibility of a dentist. Supervision of the dentist means that the dentist's physical presence at the premise of the dental office is required at the time when the delegated activity is performed.

Determination of the specific activities that can be delegated is up to the dentist who should, in compliance with national legislation, consider each case individually.

The dental laboratory technician should accept and follow the directions provided by the dentist and protect all data in relation to the patient and her/his dental devices. He is not allowed to work in a patient's mouth.

All this regulations are made to fulfil patient's rights and keep patient's safety on the highest possible level.