

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe



Selective contracts of national and private health insurance companies for dental treatment in the member countries

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Opinion concerning selective contracts with individual dentists, group of doctors or hospitals?

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The following negative aspects of selective contracts must be considered:

- health insurance funds / health insurances **pursue the goal of „profitability reserves“** by selective contracts, by decreasing dental fees;
- the improvement of medical quality is superficially mentioned as primary goal;

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The following negative aspects of selective contracts must be considered:

- they cause to selection of patient and dentist;
- they jeopardize the free choice of doctor, because patients are bound to be treated from certain contract partners.

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The following negative aspects of selective contracts must be considered:

- the role of dentists is weakened by the increasing power of health insurance funds / health insurance companies;
- commercial dependency via selective contracts will cause dumping contracts and jeopardizes medical independence ;

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The following negative aspects of selective contracts must be considered:

- Mercantile principles of insurances (shareholder) can take influence on the therapy decision **making with the risk that patient's welfare and quality of treatment will not be in the foreground any more.**

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Aim:

Based on this argumentation ERO should **be sensitized that doctor's primary task is** the safeguarding of treatment, uninfluenced by a third party. And this in a framework which makes liberal practice possible.

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ERO-FDI Statement 2010

Selective contracts of national and private health insurance companies for dental treatment in the member countries

- Health insurance companies in Europe more and more offer selective contracts to dentists and groups of dentists.

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- While pretending to liberalize the health care market and to meliorate the quality, selective contract providers just aim to achieve the **dentist's savings potentials.**

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ERO-FDI Statement 2010

- The increasing market power of insurance companies weakens the position of the self dependent and liberally practicing dentists.
- Dentists, concluding selective contracts will put themselves into massive dependency, whereas dentists, who do not inscribe into selective contracts, will be put out of business successively.

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ERO-FDI Statement 2010

- Due to that mercantile alignment of selective contracts, therapy decision makings could be **influenced and the dentist's independence** becomes jeopardized.
- Because patients are obligated to be treated by dentists inscribed into selective contracts, the free choice of doctor is cancelled.

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ERO-FDI Statement 2010

- The European Regional Organisation of the FDI vehemently militates against such selective contracts!
- The individual treatment and the free choice of doctor must be a basic principle of the free employed and self dependent working dentist!

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Thank you very much!

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- **The Israeli Government** has recently decided to include dental treatment in the Health Services Basket for citizens.
- According to this law in Israel the only providers of the medical services are the Sick Fund Services.
- The Israel Dental Association is taking legal and political action in order to assure that Private dentists ,who constitute the majority of dental provider in the country, will be included in the new arrangement and to maintain the right of patients to choose the dentist they desire to receive dental treatment from.

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- The Israel Dental Association ask from the ERO to officially declare their support for the Struggle for the principal for free dentistry and the ethical right of the patients
- In the choice of their dentist
- To the members of the ERO General Assembly