



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



ERO Statement, New Delhi, September 2014

Data-protection as part of patient/citizen protection is a high and ethical expression of liberal dental practice

Dental (medical) practice is significantly characterized by a particular mutual trust between patient and practitioner. The principal characteristic of this mutual trust lies in the obligation of an absolute confidentiality. It guarantees a high degree of protection of personal health data and for reasons of patient protection constitutes a key obligation of our liberal and independent professional practice.

The same applies to the electronic storing and recording of our patients' data. The transfer of those data and the request from various institutions to gain access to this information through our dental practices, require protective measures.

Based on the high ethical commitment to protect the most personal data of our patients, highest level of data protection has to be strived for when processing health data with particular consideration of the dental profession. Personal rights of the individual and the protection of the dental practices must be given priority. Thus, transfer and storage of health data require patient's informed consent.

Processing our patients' data has to be determined by a legal framework, oriented towards the criteria of data protection of the nation states. Its medical benefit must not be limited and it must be ensured, malpractice that may arise from other interests does not occur.

This must not lead to any disproportionately high bureaucratic and financial burden in dental (medical) practice.

The ERO Plenary Session recommends that these principles on the protection of our patients' and their practitioners' personal rights and preservation of doctor- patient confidentiality as well as the independent provision of medical care be respected.

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