

FINAL DRAFT STATEMENT ON DENTAL TECHNICIAN PROFILE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DENTIST

INTRODUCTION

The scientific and technological developments are leading to changes in dentistry, dental materials and technology, e.g. digital workflow, international trade of dental laboratory products and attitudes toward collaboration that make it necessary to highlight the relationship between the dental laboratory technician and the dentist.

DEFINITION

Dental laboratory technician*: A member of the wider dental team even if the dental technician is not part of the practice staff of the Dental Team. Dental Laboratory Technician constructs and repairs custom made dental devices such as inlays, onlays, crowns, veneers, bridges, full or partial dentures, space maintainers, retainers, and labial or lingual arch wires, without direct or indirect relation to the patient and only according to dentist's instructions and prescriptions.

POLICY

General responsibilities

1. Dentistry is a complex medical science with professional standards, it includes the prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitative treatment of diseases and malformations of the hard and soft tissues of the mouth, jaws and surrounding tissues including the treatment of lesions of the teeth and the replacement of missing teeth, in order to restore functional oral health.
2. Evidences show that oral health is an integrated part of general health. Any treatment involving medical device to be placed in a patient 's mouth is a medical act, therefore only to be performed by a dentist.
3. The Dental laboratory technician is responsible to the dentist for custom made devices according to the specifications detailed in the instructions and prescriptions provided by the dentist.

Therefore, the EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF FDI:

- Opposes any kind of diagnosis, planning or treatment of patients by dental laboratory technicians.
- Opposes any kind of sanitary profile, undergraduate and post-graduate training or academic university education programs which claim to provide the dental laboratory technician with the title and/or status of a qualified, independent healthcare provider.
- Warns the authorities in all countries of the potentially harmful consequences for the health of the population and patient safety if the right to treat patients is granted to dental laboratory technicians.

*This person may have different titles in different countries. i.e. technologist

Working relationship

In order to provide the best possible oral health care to the population, the dentist should use the services of a duly qualified dental laboratory technician.

The dentist:

- complies with all legal and ethical responsibilities in the performance of all clinical procedures
- is solely responsible for both the diagnosis and the follow-up actions thereby ensuring the continuing care of the patient.
- assumes the legal responsibilities in relation to the patient for both the clinical treatments and the instructed devices from the dental laboratory technician.
- enables the dental laboratory technician to provide the highest quality of service by providing best information (impression, models, photo, data) and in writing specific directions and specifications.
- receives and keeps the certificate of conformity for the custom-made device
- protects all data in relation to the patient's medical condition and treatment records.

The dental laboratory technician must:

- Practice within the limits of the dental laboratory technician's scope of work as defined by law and regulation.
- Undergo lifelong continuing professional development
- Accept and follow the instructions, directions and material specifications provided by the dentist.
- Ensure the use of only certified products and methods for a high standard service.
- Deliver the certificate of conformity to the dentist, including the outsourced part of the device.
- Comply with the instructions, guidelines and advice provided by the manufacturers of materials used in fabricating dental devices.
- Assume the legal responsibilities for work within the laboratory as specified by the laws and regulations of the country, state and/or governmental jurisdiction.
- Protect all data including the personal information of the patient and his dental devices.