



European Regional Organisation of  
the Federation of Dental Associations



**ERO Statement, New Delhi, September 2014**

**Data protection as part of patient rights protection is a high ethical expression of the professional dental practice**

Dental (medical) practice is significantly characterized by a particular mutual trust between patient and practitioner. The principal characteristic of this trust is the obligation of absolute confidentiality. It guarantees a high degree of protection of personal data of patients and the basis of patient's trust in the dentist. The key obligation of confidentiality is a key obligation of independent professional practice.

The same applies to the electronic storage and recording of our patients' data. The transfer of these data to the dentist or the various institutions to gain access to this information through information technologies, 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 dentist profession. Personal rights of the individual and the protection of the dental practice must be guaranteed. First, transfer and storage of health data and patient's information is based on patient's 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, no practice that may arise from the interests does so 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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