



NOVEMBER 2009

// CED RESOLUTION

DELEGATION YES Ë SUBSTITUTION NO

**(THE DENTIST IS THE MAIN POINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL ORAL
HEALTH ISSUES)**



// INTRODUCTION

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is the representative organisation for the dental profession in the EU, representing over 320,000 practising dentists through 33 national dental associations. Established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession, the CED promotes high standards of oral healthcare and effective patient-safety centred professional practice across Europe.

// GENERAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Dentistry is a complex and highly demanding branch of medicine, which encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the hard and soft tissues of mouth and jaws, malformations and lesions of the teeth, mouth and jaws, as well as the replacement of missing teeth and restoration of functional oral health.

Such treatment calls for complex medical and scientific knowledge, which is included in the training of university-educated dentists. The directive on the recognition of professional qualifications requires at least five years of wide-ranging university education before a dentist is qualified to practise independently.

This means that the overall responsibility for investigation, patient information, diagnosis, planning and carrying out of therapeutic treatment for diseases of the teeth, mouth and jaws, lies solely with the dentist.

The Council of European Dentists, however, acknowledges that there can be delegation of certain non-medical dental tasks to duly qualified non-dentists. In countries where delegation is legally authorised, this delegation must be under the supervision of a dentist.

Therefore, the CED

- Confirms that the dentist is the leader of the team with exclusive role in diagnosis and treatment planning
- Opposes any autonomous, independent treatment of patients by non-dentists, in the absence of supervision by a qualified dentist
- Warns the competent authorities in all countries of the potentially harmful consequences for the health of the population, if the right to treat patients independently were to be granted to non-dentists
- Opposes any kind of undergraduate - and postgraduate - education which gives non-dentists the status of a partial provider of dental services, with the right to practise certain areas of dentistry on an independent basis.

// WORKING RELATIONSHIP

With the view of providing the best possible oral healthcare, dental treatment usually requires collaboration between a dentist and duly qualified auxiliaries. The dentist should therefore make consistent efforts to develop and maintain the best possible working relationship.

Such cooperation is absolutely vital and is a feature of everyday practice.

When delegating dental services, the following principles shall apply:

- The delegated task shall not be one which requires close personal involvement of the dentist and shall be executed in the dental practice
- The non-dentist shall be objectively and subjectively qualified to carry out the task in question
- The dentist shall provide instructions concerning the task (directions)
- The dentist shall supervise and monitor execution of the task (supervision)
- The patient shall be aware that the service has been delegated

- The dentist shall be personally responsible and legally liable for the delegated service, to the same degree as for a service provided in person (accountability).

All above mentioned has to be in line with the respective legislation of the individual Member State of the EU.

Adopted unanimously at the CED General Meeting in Brussels on 20 November 2009