



FDI POLICY STATEMENT

Dental Laboratory Technician

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1. General responsibilities

Dentistry is a complex medical science with high standards, which encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation 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 medical knowledge, which is included in the education and training of dentists, but not in the training of dental laboratory technicians.

Therefore, the FDI World Dental Federation:

- Opposes any kind of treatment of patients by dental laboratory technicians
- Warns the authorities in all countries of the potentially harmful consequences for the health of the population if the rights to treat patients were to be granted to dental laboratory technicians.
- Opposes any kind of undergraduate and post-graduate education which gives the dental laboratory technician the status of a healthcare provider.

2. Working relationship

When a dental treatment involves collaboration between a dentist and a dental laboratory technician and with the view to providing the best possible oral health care to the population, the dentist should work together with a duly qualified dental laboratory technician or a person undergoing formal training and make consistent efforts to develop and maintain the best possible working relationship.

2.1 The dentist should:

- comply with all legal responsibilities in the performance of all clinical procedures to enable the dental laboratory technician to provide the highest quality of service,
- assume the legal responsibilities in relation to the patient for both the clinical treatments and for the services accepted from the dental laboratory technician,
- provide in writing specific directions and specifications to the dental laboratory technician in respect of the services required.
- be solely responsible for both the diagnosis and the follow -up actions thereby ensuring the continuing care of the patient.

2.2 The dental laboratory technician should:

- accept and follow the directions and specifications provided by the dentist
- liaise with the dentist in respect of alternative or new techniques and procedures
- comply with the instructions and advice provided by the manufacturers of materials

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- ensure that directions and specifications are available which permit the production of a high standard service
- assume the legal responsibilities for work within the laboratory, as specified by the laws and regulations of the country
- protect all data in relation to the patient and his/her dental devices