

Guidance regarding use of tooth restoration materials

1. Introduction

The present Guidance is drawn up under the authority of Statutory Order no. 956 of 23rd September 2008 on subsidy to dental treatment in the General Practise, sec. 3 (3) and Statutory Order no. 727 of 15th June 2007, relating to dentistry, sec. 30.

The Guidance is specifying, when composite resin material, silver amalgam and glass ionomer shall be used for tooth restorations.

The Guidance is drawn up based on the Report from The National Board of Health: "Phasing out amalgam in dentistry – specification of options and recommendations", 2006. The Report concludes that the indication area for the use of composite resin material may be expanded, and it is recommended in the future, only to use silver amalgam in permanent premolars and molars, where it is obvious that a silver amalgam restoration will have an extended longevity than a composite resin restoration. The report is assessing that no health risk for the individual patient caused by mercury from silver amalgam is proven, and silver amalgam used as restoration material therefore seems to be associated with extremely limited health risks.

2. Composite resin material

Composite resin material can be used for all kinds of restorations. When a tooth is restored for the first time, and glass ionomer is not used, the first choice shall be composite resin material.

3. Amalgam (silver amalgam)

Silver amalgam can be used when restoring permanent premolars and molars in case that it is obvious that a restoration in this material will have the best longevity. These cases are limited to treatments, where there is no possibility for desiccation, difficult accessibility to the cavity, a particularly large cavity, or large distance to the adjacent tooth.

4. Glass ionomer

Glass ionomer is typically used when restoring gingival caries lesions, abrasions, for total and partial tunnel preparations, as base- and lining material, temporary restorative, and for all kinds of restorations in primary teeth.

5. Replacement of restoration

As a rule, there has to be a health related indication, when replacing a permanent composite resin, glass ionomer or amalgam restoration.

6. Informed consent

Please note that the Health Act (no. 95 of 7th February 2008) comprises regulations on the legal position of patients, including e.g. health staff's obligation to provide information and obtain a patient's consent before treatment, etc. According to these regulations, no treatment can be initiated or continued, without informed consent from the patient. The purpose of the regulations of informed consent in the Health Act is to regard the individual and its integrity and self-determination.

7. Record keeping

Please note that The National Board of Health in Statutory Order no. 1373 of 12th December 2006 has drawn up guidelines for patients' records, including guidelines for the more specific content of a

record. When placing restorations, it shall appear from the patient's record which information the patient has received, and what the patient has expressed after receiving this information. Also the indication for placing a new restoration or replacing an existing restoration, shall be recorded.

8. Solicitude and conscientiousness

In pursuance of the Authorization Act no. 451 of 22nd May 2006, sec. 17, a dentist is obliged to exercise solicitude and conscientiousness, when practising his/her profession, hereunder using composite resin material, glass ionomer or silver amalgam for restoration of teeth.

Effective date

This Guidance is in effect from October 1st 2008.

The National Board of Health, 30th September 2008

Lone de Neergaard