

## BDIZ EDI checklists still in demand

# Top priority: dental documentation

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, BDIZ EDI had made dental documentation a top priority. In 2020/2021 we offered a webinar on this topic. Checklists for dental documentation are available for download in the members' area of the BDIZ EDI's German-language website. They provide clear examples of how dental documentation can work.



Stay tuned for English version end of 2023.

Patient and treatment records are the most important documents in dental liability cases. Seven years after the German Patients' Rights Act came into force, BDIZ EDI Legal Counsel Prof. Thomas Ratajczak still observes that many dentists in private practice do not have proper documentation procedures in place. For this reason, BDIZ EDI has developed a checklist covering all aspects of dental documentation: general information, background data, expert opinions and checklists for use in the practice.

What is part of the treatment record and what is part of the billing record? What should be kept in the patient file and what should not? Prof. Ratajczak, a lawyer specialising in medical and social law, has often seen these issues treated cavalierly and inadequately in practice—

even though documentation has long been a required aspect of any dental and medical treatment and is explicitly mentioned in the German Civil Code. And, according to Prof. Ratajczak, using the features provided by the billing software is not sufficient as medical documentation.

"The billing software and its records are of secondary importance in the eyes of the law", he explains. "Billing builds on and follows the treatment, not the other way around!" Specifically, records of billable services must be derived from the treatment documentation, rather than attempting to recover treatment data from accounting records.

What needs to be documented in the patient record? How detailed does the documentation have to be? How will subsequent changes to the data be assessed

in medical liability disputes? BDIZ EDI addresses these and other relevant questions in its checklists, which are available online.

## Finding the checklists

Visit [www.bdizedi.org](http://www.bdizedi.org)

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to retrieve the checklists – or simply scan the QR code. You must be logged in as a member.





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