



MAKE DENTAL AMALGAM HISTORY

*Countries restricting the Use
of Dental Amalgam*

Nov 2019



World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry
Всемирный альянс за стоматологию без ртути
Alliance Mondiale pour une Dentisterie sans Mercure
Alianza Mundial por una Odontología Sin Mercurio
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世界无汞牙科联盟

This draft document has been prepared on the basis of information received from regional and national NGOs in 2019, but all details have not yet been verified by the European Center for Environmental Medicine. A final verified version with all appropriate references is in preparation.

Countries restricting the use of dental amalgam

AFRICA

Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military hospitals have mercury-free dental clinics • No population accepting free dental amalgam restorative cares in the northern part of the country based on consumer education • Government's engagement in developing regulation banning amalgam in children and child bearing women
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Baptists hospitals are Mercury-free dental clinics • Regulation banning all hazardous chemicals products including dental amalgam enacted
Côte d'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government plans to adopt a regulation prohibiting the use of amalgam in children, pregnant women and nursing mothers since a draft decree has been approved. • Opening of a mercury-free dental clinic in Abidjan. • The curricula from dental faculty have been modified, giving priority to the use of alternatives in restorative care.
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional support from government and dental board to achieve amalgam phase out at country level • Priority given to alternative use for restorative cares in curricula of dental school since 2017
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enacting regulation on mercury-free dentistry in progress • Priority given to alternative use for restorative cares in curricula of dental school since 2017 • Development of county model on mercury-free dentistry in Mombasa
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military hospitals are all mercury-free dentistry • Effective change of curricula in dental faculty prioritizing the use of alternative in restorative cares since 2015.
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of curricula in dental school • Mauritius island ban amalgam for children in 2017 • Amalgam import ban at country level • Strong collaboration with government institutions to monitor and enforce the national regulation
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the curricula of all faculties of dentistry in federal universities, giving priority to the use of alternatives in restorative care, • Model state establishment for mercury-free dentistry in Lagos State and Benin City, • Elaboration of a federal roadmap for the elimination of amalgam in dental restorative care by 2021 throughout the country.
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partnership has been developed with dental association, dental schools and scholar medical doctors to achieve a no more use amalgam in children and young girls/women • National institutional support from the government and Parliament is secured to achieve amalgam phase down.

ASIA

Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bangladesh Dental Society declared to ban the use of dental amalgam in the treatment of children and pregnant mothers by June 2018. • Bangladesh Army Dental Core phased out dental amalgam use in their treatment on January 10, 2018. • Six dental educational institutions declared mercury free. • More than 2000 dental surgeon has self-declared Mercury Free Dentistry practitioners. • A National Alliance was created with the Bangladesh dental society, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Bangladesh Army
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is moving forward on change in curriculum as well as to restrict usage in vulnerable population. • A draft government order for removal of old amalgam restorations, mercury waste management and disposal in dental clinics is being prepared.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a technical guidance to withdraw mercury containing medical devices is in the process now.

<p>Presidential Decree No. 21 year 2019 is concerning the elimination and phase out of mercury containing medical devices, including dental amalgam, scheduled to be phase out by 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Indonesia the dental amalgam-related curriculum has been regulated since 2015. • The National Dental Association (PDGI- Indonesian Dental Association) has phased out the use of dental amalgam since 2017; they did not provide recommendations for the use of dental amalgam in hospitals or clinics throughout Indonesia. 	
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the 1980s Japan has moved almost completely away from amalgam for aesthetic and environmental reasons. Amalgam has been replaced by composite resin, glass ionomer and gold/silver/palladium alloy. Amalgam was used in approximately 11% of all dental restorations in the 1980s, declining to less than 4% in the 1990s. In 2010 only 20 kg of mercury were used in dentistry.
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 2030 Malaysia would phase out the use of dental amalgam upon having the right substitute for it. • The Malaysian Dental Association is willing to collaborate with CAP in phasing-down amalgam in the dentistry field.
Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mongolia has taken steps to limit procurement of amalgam, effectively phasing down its use. • Joint Order of The Minister of Health and The National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia (11 January 2011)
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 August 2019, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population has decided up on moving Mercury Free Dentistry for banning mercury dental amalgam in children (<15 year), pregnant and breastfeeding mothers first and then move to the general public and dental school curriculum revision /improvements. • On 19th March 2019, Nepal Dental Association has declared the Bharatpur Metropolitan City as First Mercury Free City with respect to Mercury Free Dentistry. • Kathmandu Universities with affiliation of 6 Dental Colleges out of 12 Dental Colleges in Nepal has already revised their dental curricula in light of Mercury Free Dentistry.
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-EMB) are in the process of revising the Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Mercury and Mercury compounds. • 6th draft for the “Joint Administrative Order on Dental Restoration using Mercury-added Amalgam” is completed, and final revisions are underway
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health agreed to send out a circular, limiting the use of amalgam and considers further provisions, to phase down the use of amalgam.
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health issued a directive to stop using dental Amalgam for children under 15, pregnant and breastfeeding women by April 1st, 2019; and developed a roadmap to stop using dental Amalgam in dentistry from January 1st, 2021. • On May 23, 2019, National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology (NHOS), the leading dental hospital in Vietnam, declared to be Mercury-free Dental hospital and 45 dentists in this hospital signed a registration form to become Mercury-free dentists.
<p>In the former Soviet Union, the use of dental amalgam was not permitted for children up to the age of 18 Years. Members did not develop any significantly use since 1991. The use of glass ionomer is wide spread.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan 	
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of Dental Amalgam is prohibited under the national hazardous waste regulation
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the protection of health and the environment, the production, placing on the market and use of Dental Amalgam is prohibited by 15.02.2020.
MIDDLE EAST	
Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on the use of dental amalgam for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women

GRULAC

Bolivia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2019 a decree came from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment in which the use of dental amalgam is banned.
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has an excellent oral programme for children since many years, aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, very little indeed of mercury is used, mainly under exceptional clinical circumstances. At the faculty of dentistry from Universidad de Chile and Universidad Católica, the most important ones, do not longer teach the use of dental amalgam, for many years.
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of dental amalgam is allowed, 66.9% of children aged 1 to 5 years; 60.5% of those between 5 and 12 years old; and 98.6% of people who have permanent dentition, have caries lesions of varying degrees of severity. These percentages are higher in rural dispersed populations, and in children. National health system is the largest user of amalgams, private dentistry no longer uses it. It is allowed for dentistry to import mercury to produce raw materials, however, a deadline was set until 2023 for them to make their transition and after that time, no more mercury will be used.
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health under the strengthening of the regulatory framework in relation to waste management with mercury, updated the dental protocols for oral health was carried out, in which the description of filling procedures and restoration of dental pieces with amalgam was eliminated. The Ministry of Health prepared and disseminated, written, radio and television advertising spots to sensitize and inform the population of the country, about the advantages of changing dental amalgams for resins or other materials.
Guyana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guyana is no longer purchasing dental amalgam for the public sector. The stock will be used out in 2020/2021 A regulation to phase out the use of dental amalgam in the private sector is on the way.
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has worked with Green Hospital, about ten hospitals in the public sector have signed a public commitment to eliminate mercury, including two National Institutes of Health and others from the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS). In the public sector dental amalgam is used in encapsulated form, in the private sector nearly none uses dental amalgam. The municipality of Chihuahua adopted a commitment to eliminate mercury in the health sector.
Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health, has already been working for many years on the elimination of the use of dental amalgams in the public sector. The country has already developed a regulation to do so. The Private dental sector no longer uses it.
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of health are working to develop a decree with the aim of banning the use of mercury in children. Private sector does not use it any longer. Dentistry schools at the universities encourage students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives.
Suriname	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As far as the use of mercury amalgam in dentistry is concerned, discussions took place in 2013 with the Dentists Association. Based on their information it has been established that mercury amalgam is practically no longer used in Surinamese dentistry. Nevertheless, together with the Dentists Association and the Foundation for Youth Dental Care (JTV) a program will be set up to completely halt the use of mercury amalgam in the dentistry. By the end of 2018 in collaboration with Dentists Association and Foundation for Youth Dental Care to completely ban the use mercury amalgam. Nowadays, under (5%) of dental amalgam is used.
St. Kitts and Nevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2018, at the National Final Results Meeting for the Project “Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago)”, it was determined that the major problem was the consumption of products with intentional use of mercury throughout their use and disposal. It accounted for 72.4% of mercury released in Saint Kitts and Nevis during 2015. Subsequently St Kitts and Nevis has phased out the use of all dental amalgam

Uruguay

- set a national school programme in 2005 aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion. Under the National Public Health System, where a vast population is attending, very little mercury is used.
- Since 2007 the Dentistry School from the Universidad de la Republica, main university in the country, teaches the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and promote the best practices. The use of mercury for restoration is taught as technique, used in the past. At its clinic, where a great amount of people is attending, it is a free-mercury dental assistance.

EUROPE

European Union + Monaco (use of mercury for dental amalgam in 2010: ~75t/Year)

Mercury-Regulation 2017:

- From 1 July 2018, dental amalgam shall not be used for dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of children under 15 years and of pregnant or breastfeeding women, except when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner based on the specific medical needs of the patient.
- By 1 July 2019, each Member State shall set out a national plan concerning the measures it intends to implement to phase down the use of dental amalgam.

EU-National Action Plans 2019:

Cyprus (use of dental amalgam in 2012: 30%)

- **From 1 January 2025 the use of dental amalgam is prohibited in persons under the age of 18 unless the dentist considers it strictly necessary because of the patient's specific medical needs.**
- Until 1 January 2025 Cyprus assess the possibility of prohibiting the use of dental amalgams throughout the population unless the dentist deems it absolutely necessary because of the patient's specific medical needs.

Czech Republic (use of dental amalgam in 2012: 92%)

- **The Czech Republic does not expect an absolute phase out of amalgam in 2030 but the objective is a reduction below 1% of the initial fill state. -at the latest in 2025 (from 1 January) it should be possible to start uniform payments for dental fillings regardless of the material.**
- from 2030 onwards, amalgam fillings will only be reimbursed in exceptional indications where no alternatives are available and the patient wishes to have an amalgam filling.

Finland (current use of dental amalgam: < 1 %)

- **The long-term objective is to phase out the use of amalgam completely by 2030.**
- **Short-term goals: Reduce amalgam consumption by at least 25% by 2022 from 2019; 50% by 2025 and 75% by 2028.**
- **Since the use of amalgam is influenced by the public funding model, the model should be reviewed in the coming years and renewed from this perspective.**

Ireland (current use of dental amalgam: 20%)

- **Ireland supports a phase down towards phase out/ban of amalgam across all age groups by 2030.**
- **The use of dental amalgam will be allowed only in exceptional clinical circumstances. The ongoing need for clinical exemptions will be reviewed periodically.**
- **The public payment system will be revised to support mercury-free alternatives for eligible persons across all age groups.**

Germany (current use of dental amalgam: < 10%)

- The Federal Government has set itself the goal of working towards further reducing the use of amalgam in dental treatment and limiting it to indispensable special cases.
- The first National Plan is focusing on further strengthening the prevention of caries, but will be periodically updated in subsequent years.

Lithuania

- The Minister of Health prepares a draft order stipulating that the use of dental amalgam fillings and the removal of teeth filled with dental amalgam fillings may be performed only in dental care (aid) institutions belonging to the Lithuanian National Health System.
- The Minister of Health prepares a draft order obliging dental care institutions to report the used amalgam for the treatment of milk teeth, teeth of children under 15 years of age, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and medical indications of these patients; mandatory patient information and written consent to use dental amalgam for dental treatment; establish procedures for the provision of this information and reporting.

The Netherlands (the use of dental amalgam was falling in the years 2015-2018 from 1% to 0.55%)

- **As soon as the use of amalgam will increase above 1%, the Netherlands will evaluate actions how to further reduce the use.**

Romania (use of amalgam compared to alternative filling materials in 2012: 71%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately ban on the use of amalgam for children up to 18 Years • Use of dental amalgam only permitted in a selected list of medical clinics • Patients obligation to complete an informed consent before using dental amalgam
Slovakia (current use of dental amalgam: 30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slovakia anchored a ban on amalgam from 1. January 2031 in the national legislation Act no. 578/2004 Coll. The competent regional authority may grant dentists a fine of up to EUR 3,919. • an adjustment of the subsidy for alternative fillings is planned in the next few years

Independent National Regulations by EU Members

New Caledonia (France) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 16th September 2019 the Haut-Commissariat de la République en Nouvelle-Calédonie decided to immediately stop the use of dental amalgam.
Sweden (current use of dental amalgam: proximately 0%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden stopped to subsidize dental amalgam in 1999 • In 2009 dental Amalgam was banned for the general population with following exceptions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) in Specific medical condition 2) when other dental filling materials cannot be used or cannot provide adequate restoration • Sweden ceased the exemptions on 31 December 2011
Denmark (The use of dental amalgam has decreased from 22% to 1,7% in the period from 2007 to 2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denmark decree: mercury-free alternatives should be the first choice • Since 1995 amalgam should only be used as filling in permanent molars in the following instances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) lack of possibility of drying, 2) difficult accessibility of the cavity, 3) especially large cavity 4) large distance to neighbouring tooth

Non EU-Members

Iceland - Intends to adopt the Measures of the EU-Mercury-Regulation (2017): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental amalgam shall not be used for dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of children under 15 years and of pregnant or breastfeeding women, except when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner based on the specific medical needs of the patient. • In 2017 only 9 Fillings were made of Dental Amalgam (0.04%)
Norway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1991, Norway issued guidelines that the use of amalgam should be limited due to environmental impacts. Stronger guidelines were issued in 2003, requiring materials other than amalgam to be considered as the first choice in tooth fillings. • Since 2008 Norway has had a general ban on mercury products. This included a ban on amalgam, with an exemption period – now expired – for special cases. • Amalgam use has been eliminated since 2011.
Montenegro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montenegro is no longer purchasing dental amalgam for the public sector. The stock will be used out in 2020/2021 • Intends to adopt the Measures of the EU-Mercury-Regulation (2017)
Switzerland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Switzerland the 1989 Swiss Ordinance on Risk Reduction related to chemical products stated that amalgam may not be used if a mercury-free alternative can be applied in its place. • The use of dental amalgam is banned in Switzerland since the ratification of the Minamata Convention • The trade of mercury and mercury containing compounds will be stopped in 2027

Countries that Discourage or Restrict Amalgam in Vulnerable Populations

Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourages or Restricts Amalgam in Vulnerable Populations • “Avoid using amalgam fillings in children, pregnant women.”
Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourages or Restricts Amalgam in Vulnerable Populations • Warns parents, pregnant women to avoid amalgam

For more information or assistance

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