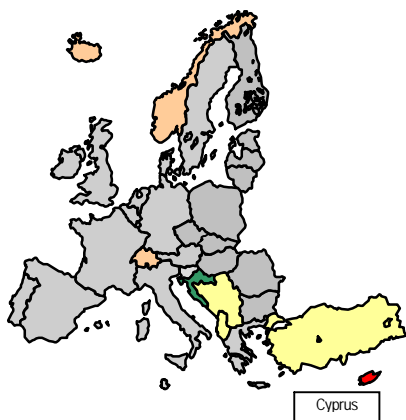


Cyprus



Date of last revision: 1st October 2008

In the EU/EEA since	2004
Population (2008)	794,580
GDP PPP per capita (2007)	€22,938
Currency	Euro
Main languages	Greek, Turkish & English

In Cyprus oral healthcare is provided largely through fully liberal, private general practice, as the public sector is very small. The amount contributed depends on income.

Number of dentists:	1,018
Population to (active) dentist ratio:	1,091
Members of Dental Association:	100%

The use of dental specialists is restricted as is the development of clinical dental auxiliaries.

Continuing education for dentists is not mandatory.

Government and healthcare in Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus is on an island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Turkey lies to the north and Syria to the East. The land area of the island is 9,250 sq km, which makes it the third largest island in the Mediterranean. The highest point on the island (Mt Olympus) is 1,951 m. The capital, Nicosia is near the geographical centre of the island.

Independence from the UK was approved in 1960 with constitutional guarantees by the Greek, Turkish and UK governments.

However, following military intervention by Turkey in 1974, the island has been *de facto* divided, with a northern 37% being controlled as "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", declared in 1983, recognised only by Turkey, and unaccepted as a legal entity by the rest of the world. There have been UN-led direct talks between the two sides to reach a comprehensive settlement to the division of the island from time to time but no progress has been made. The Republic of Cyprus became a member of the EU in 2004. The *Acquis Communautaire* will not be applied in the north part, for the time being.

The Republic is governed as a presidential democracy. The legislative power is administered through the House of Representatives and the judicial power is executed by the Supreme Court and the District Courts. There are six administrative districts.

About 81% of the population are Greek-Cypriots (including about 9,000 Maronites, Armenians and Latins), 11.0% Turkish-Cypriots and 8% foreign residents and workers.

In Cyprus, a National Health System had not yet been established by 2008. Health care is provided by the government (public sector), the private health care sector, and some schemes covering specific population groups. According to Cypriot national legislation, health care in the public sector is provided by the Government Medical and Dental Services and is governed by the Government Medical Institutions and Services General Regulations of 2002.

The introduction of a General Health Insurance Scheme (GHIS) is scheduled for 2009. The GHIS will:

1. Provide general medical services, specialised in medical services, inpatient care, diagnostic tests, drugs, rehabilitation services and preventive dental care for children up to 16 years old and medical treatment abroad.
2. Change the structure of health care services, as well as the way providers are remunerated for their services. Primary care Physicians will be paid on a combined manner, 3-tiered approach (capitation rate, quality assurance, reward right referral pattern); specialists will be paid on a fee schedule. Hospital services payment will be paid on the Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs) system.
3. Introduce elements of competition between the private and the public sector to stipulate greater efficiency, quality and effectiveness in the provision of health care services.

Improved institutional capacity, organisational structure and human resources through changes are expected to take place in order to provide the necessary infrastructure for the implementation of the GHIS.

Current legislation in Cyprus stipulates that financial criteria must be taken into account to define eligibility for receiving health care by the public sector.

	Year	Source
% GDP spent on health	6.0% 2007	CSS
% of this spent by gov ernm't	45.0% 2007	CSS

The CSS is the Cyprus Statistical Service

Public healthcare expenditure is regulated by Parliament, on an annual basis.

Oral healthcare

Oral health care in Cyprus is provided by dentists and dental auxiliaries employed by the government (Dental Services of the Ministry of Health) and by private (non-governmental) dentists and dental auxiliaries financed by payments by patients or a source other than the government. Some dentists have contracts with workers' unions or other semi-governmental organisations, as well as insurance companies. They would normally be paid on an item of service system.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on oral health	0.06%	2007	CSS
% of OH expenditure private	97%	2007	CSS

As mentioned earlier, access to public oral healthcare depends on income. Primary school children receive free preventive treatment from the public sector. The services provided by the public sector also include conservative and surgical items, but not orthodontics or fixed prosthetics. These items have to be paid for by the patients. Special groups (such as poorer adults and children with special needs) are exempted from charges, or pay a reduced amount, for their dental treatment offered by the public sector.

For the rest, there is a set rate for the oral healthcare provided by the public sector, depending on the income and status of the patients (for example, civil servants are entitled to reduced fees). However, different levels of contribution do not affect the level of entitlement to care.

For the public sector the Law governing the provision of Dental Services is applied. There are fixed prices for the specific items offered, but depending on the income of the patient, as mentioned above. For the private sector, the patient pays directly and the price is not regulated. In the case of insurance company involvement, the fees are agreed between the dentist and the company.

With the implementation of a new General Health Insurance System (GHIS), the Ministry of Health has recommended the following adjustments related to dental services:

- Primary/preventive dental care up to the age of 16;
- Provision of dental services in Foundations (in mobile dental units);
- Public Dental Health;
- Dental Treatment for pupils aged 10 from private sector dentists - after the student's reference by dentists from the public sector;
- Dental Treatment for schools (in mobile dental units);
- Second degree dental care (Dental Surgery, Paedodontics, Periodontology) for special groups;
- Third Degree dental care services (Removable prosthetics and Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery - local and general anaesthesia) for special groups.

The proportion of the population receiving oral healthcare regularly (in a two-year period) is not known, but there is data for the public sector.

Oral examinations would normally be undertaken annually, or more frequently where active disease is present. There is an uneven distribution of dentists in Cyprus, but as the roads are in a very good condition and Cyprus is a small place, there is no actual problem of access.

Domiciliary care is normally provided by the Public Service, in certain cases.

Private Insurance

Only a very small proportion of the population is covered by private insurance companies.

Quality of Care

A committee at the level of the Ministry of Health is becoming involved with issues concerning quality. However, there are no routine checks and they rely on someone making a complaint.

Health data

		Year	Source
DMFT at age 12	1.14	2005	Min of Health
DMFT zero at age 12	No data		
Edentulous at age 65	No data		

"DMFT zero at age 12" refers to the number of 12 years old children with a zero DMFT. "Edentulous at age 65" refers to the numbers of over 64s with no natural teeth

Fluoridation

There is no fluoride adjusted water scheme in Cyprus, although a very small proportion of the population receives fluoridated water at or above optimal levels (naturally fluoridated).

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Training

There are no dental schools in Cyprus. The majority – about 75% – of dentists practicing in Cyprus have graduated from EU/EEA universities – mainly Greek Universities (Athens and Thessaloniki). To study in Greece, a student has to pass the entry exams organised by the Ministry of Education of Cyprus – there are usually 15 posts allocated for Cypriot citizens each year. If a student wishes to study in other countries he/she has to fulfil the requirements imposed by the country concerned.

Qualification and Vocational Training

Vocational Training (VT)

There is no post-qualification training in Cyprus.

Registration

According to the Articles 19A (1) and (2) of the amended Dentists' Registration Law 2004:

- (1) A dentist national of a Member State who holds one of the titles referred to in Annex V and is a resident of an EU Member State has the right to provide services in the Cyprus Republic without being registered with the Dental Council. (In this case he/she is registered in a record kept by the Dental Council)
- (2) In accordance with this Article, the Dental Council keeps a record of the names of dental practitioners who provide services.

According to the amended Dentists' Registration Law 2004 Article 4(1) the following persons shall be entitled to be registered as a dentist, if the Dental Council's requirements are met:

- a. Any person whose age is 21 years old and above.
- b. Any person who is a national of the Republic of Cyprus or is married to or is a child of a national of the Republic of Cyprus who has his permanent place of residence in, or is a national of a Member State.
- c. Any person who holds a diploma, certificate or other title applied to Annex III or holds a diploma or title which is not applied to Annex III but complies with the requirements at Annex IV, which is recognised by KYSATS and approved by the Dental Council or covered by the provisions in Article 4A.
- d. Is a person of good character presenting a certificate of the "judicial record" or, in the case of nationals of Member States, an equivalent document issued by a competent authority in the Member State of origin or the Member State from which the foreign national comes, given that this is

updated (not more than three months since the date of issue up to the date of its presentation).

- e. Any person who has not ceased to practice because of professional misconduct.

In order to be allowed to practice Dentistry in Cyprus, registration with the Cyprus Dental Council is mandatory for recognition of his/her title and then in order to practice the dental profession he/she has to be registered with the Cyprus Dental Association (professional body) so all dentists are members.

Exempted from the registration with the Cyprus Dental Association are the dentists who would like to provide services according to the relevant sectoral Directives. If an EU dentist wants to be established in Cyprus he/she also has to be registered with both CDC and CDA, but for a dentist who wants to provide services for a limited time period, registration with the CDC only is necessary. Nevertheless, with the new PQD Directive, the new harmonised legislation will state that if a dentist wishes to provide services, she/he will have to have a pro forma registration with the professional association.

Language requirements

Language requirements are going to be imposed with the new amended legislation (harmonisation with the EU Directive 2005/36) as regards license to practice.

Cost of registration CDC (2008)	€ 34.17
Cost of registration CDA (2008)	€ 120

Further Postgraduate and Specialist Training

Continuing education

Continuing education is not mandatory. The Dental Services of the Ministry of Health, with the collaboration of the Cyprus Dental Association, organises seminars and workshops on contemporary dental topics in Cyprus, with instructors from EU countries (mainly from Greek Universities).

Specialist Training

There is no specialist training in Cyprus. All specialists train overseas.

Workforce

Dentists

All dentists practising in Cyprus qualified overseas. In 2001 about 66% qualified in EU/ EEA countries, with the remainder qualified in third countries.

Year of data:	2008
Total Registered	1,018
In active practice	728
Dentist to population ratio*	1,091
Percentage female	47%
Qualified overseas	1,018

There is no reported unemployment amongst dentists in Cyprus.

Movement of dentists across borders

There is no significant movement of dentists from and to Cyprus. Dentists from the UK mainly come to get established in Cyprus, but not in large numbers. Cypriot dentists move to other EU/EEA countries (mostly the UK) to get postgraduate education and to work.

Specialists

Since 2004, when new laws were enacted, the recognised specialties are:

- ✚ Orthodontists who have received at least 3 years' training, and
- ✚ Oral Surgeons, who have received at least 3 years' training, and
- ✚ Oral Maxillo-facial surgeons, after basic medical and dental training plus at least 4 years' specialist training, and
- ✚ Dento-alveolar surgery, after at least 4 years' training

Year of data:	2008
Orthodontics	40
Endodontics	
Paedodontics	
Periodontics	
Prosthodontics	
Oral Surgery	1
Dental Public Health	
Dento-alveolar Surgery	12
OMFS	2

Specialists usually practice in the towns but as Cyprus is small there is no actual problem for patients to access them. About two thirds of the Oral surgeons have had dental training only and the remainder have received medical and dental training. The specialty of Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery is also recognised by the Cyprus Medical Council.

Auxiliaries

There are two kinds of clinical dental auxiliaries in Cyprus, Dental Hygienists and Technicians:

Year of data:	2008
Hygienists	7
Technicians	200
Denturists	0
Assistants	340
Therapists	0

Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists are trained abroad as there are no dental schools in Cyprus. They are not registered nor regulated in Cyprus. Dental hygienists are paid a set fee for every patient who is seen.

Dental Technicians

Technicians are trained in Greece, the UK, other European countries, or the USA. The minimum requirement, for a dental technician to be registered, is 3 years study, after the completion of the secondary school studies. They normally work in separate dental laboratories and invoice the dentist for work done.

They have to be registered with the Dental Technicians' Council, comprised of 7 members, 1 public dental technician, 1 public dentist, 1 private dentist and 4 private dental technicians. There is no reported illegal practice.

Dental Chairside Assistants

Dental assistants working for the public sector are salaried. There are approximately 40 (unqualified). The others, in the private sector, are salaried or have an agreement with the dentist to work on commission.

There is no formal education, but dental assistants working for the public sector undergo on the job training.

Practice in Cyprus

Only a small proportion of dentists work for the Public Health Services in the Dental Services of the Ministry of Health, and in the Armed Forces - these dentists cannot practice privately. The others are private practitioners.

There is no data available for the private sector relating to how many patients would normally see in a day, but in the public sector a dentist can treat about 15 patients daily.

Year of data:	2008
General (private) practice	681
Public dental service	40
University	
Hospital	
Armed Forces	7
General Practice as a proportion is	94%

Working in General Practice

Most dentists practice in private practice. They work in a completely liberal, private fees-for-service system. However, there is a minimum price list set by the Cyprus Dental Association.

Joining or establishing a practice

There are no specific rules about the location of a practice, for the time being.

There is no government assistance to set up new practices, and these are usually funded through bank loans.

Most dental practices in Cyprus are solo practices. Only a small percentage of general dental practitioners work as assistants or associates. There are no specific regulations for the time being but in 2008 it is expected that new special regulations will apply at some future time.

Working in Hospitals (the Public Dental Service)

There are 5 public district hospitals in Cyprus. The Public Health Service Dentists work in these urban and rural health centres, owned by the state. They are all salaried and are not permitted to undertake private practice. The treatment they may provide includes oral surgery, oral maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, restorative dentistry, paedodontics, removable prosthetics and dental public health.

There are also a few small private hospitals, but only 3 or 4 clinicians provide services there, mostly oral maxillofacial surgery.

Working in the Armed Forces

There are a handful of dentists working full time for the Armed Forces, including one female.

Professional Matters

Professional associations

	Number	Year	Source
Cyprus Dental Association	728	2007	CDA

There is a single main national association, the Cyprus Dental Association. The Association was founded and was established by law in 1968 - with five local Dental Associations also. These are Nicosia-Keryneia, Limassol, Larnaka, Pafos and Famagusta Local Dental Association one in each District of Cyprus. Each dentist, under the Dentists Registration Law should be registered with the local Dental Association where he/she practises dentistry.

There are 23 members of the council of the Association and they elect the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Also, there is a scientific committee and executive committee. They have their regular meetings every two months and the elections for the new members of the council every three years.

The Association represents private and public dentists and combines this role by trying to emphasize to common professional matters.

The local dental associations have representatives in the Board of the CDA.

The CDA has owned a new building since 2007 and has one full-time secretary.

The Dental Council is made up of 4 dentists from the private sector and 3 from the public sector. The Council is appointed by the Council of Ministers. It is the competent authority for the registration of dentists in Cyprus and for the recognition of dental specialities.

Ethics and Regulation

Ethical Code

Dentists work under an ethical code which covers relationships and behaviour between dentists, the contract with the patient. The ethical code is administered by the Cyprus Dental Association.

Fitness to Practise/Disciplinary Matters

Complaints from patients are presented to the Cyprus Dental Association and to the Court, depending on the nature of the complaint. The Disciplinary Committee of the Cyprus Dental Association judges the complaints. Dentists from both the public and private sectors sit as members of the committee. A complaint may be referred to the courts, depending on its severity.

Usually the remedies have to do with monetary compensation. The final sanction of the professional body could be the withdrawal of the licence for a specific duration of time. The final sanction of the court could be a sum of money to be paid to the patient as penalty. The right of appeal is based on the National Law.

Data Protection

Cyprus has been harmonised with EU Legislation in regard to data protection.

Advertising

Advertising is not generally allowed. A dentist can display the title he/she bears, if this title is recognised by the Dental Council. However, when a young dentist is starting practice he or she may put an advertisement in a newspaper.

Dentists may use websites to inform the patients on general dental issues or inform their colleagues on a special kind of service they provide. There were plans to integrate the CED Code in the new dentists' code of ethics legislation, hopefully later in 2008.

Insurance and professional indemnity

There is no mandatory professional indemnity cover in Cyprus. However, discussions were being held in the Parliament and in the CDA on this topic in 2008.

Corporate Dentistry

This is permitted in Cyprus. Non-dentists may wholly or partly own the company, but in all cases at least one dentist must be employed.

Tooth whitening

There is no specific legislation about this in Cyprus.

Health and Safety at Work

Most members of the dental workforce have been vaccinated with Hepatitis B vaccine, but this is not mandatory.

Ionising Radiation

There are specific regulations about radiation protection, according to the relevant EU Directives. Licensing of ionising radiation equipment is regulated through legislation and there are licensed users of ionising radiation, dentists are included.

There is no mandatory continuing education for ionising radiation. Dentists can attend seminars organised on this issue by the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health.

Hazardous waste

Cyprus adopted the European legislation on waste disposal in 2005. The disposal of clinical and hazardous waste including the installation of amalgam separators is governed by legislation. Each producer and holder of waste is responsible for its safe disposal.

The Public Dental Service has a contract with a private company for clinical and hazardous waste. Amalgam separators are installed in the dental units of the public dental service. Private practices are not obliged by law to have amalgam separators. Dental equipment is governed by legislation as regards the CE conformity marking.

Regulations for Health and Safety

<i>For</i>	<i>Administered by</i>
Ionising radiation	The Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health
Electrical installations	The Ministry of Communication & Works in collaboration with the Electricity Authority of Cyprus
Infection control	The Ministry of Health
Medical devices	The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Waste disposal	The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment.

Financial Matters

Retirement pensions and Healthcare

Pensions for the dentists in the public sector are monitored through the Pensions Law of the civil servants (retirement at 60 years of age). Public health workers receive a pension based on the years of service they have had in the civil service and on their final salary.

Dentists in the private sector can work past this retirement age. They claim their pension according to their contributions to the Social Insurance fund during their working life. In 2008 a new legislation was being enacted to establish a "Dentists' Pension Fund" combined with the "Doctors' Pension Fund". The Dental Association was working towards enabling dentists to join this scheme.

Taxes

National income tax:

The highest rate of income tax is 30% on earnings over about €25,500.

In addition to income tax, social insurance premiums are paid as a percentage of salary, a 6.3% contribution each by the employer and employee. However, civil servants are entitled to a reduced health care provision to the fund.

VAT/sales tax

There is a value added tax, payable at a rate of 15% on purchases. Medical and dental services are not included

Other Useful Information

<i>Main national association and Information Centre:</i>	<i>Main information Centre:</i>
<p>Cyprus Dental Association 1, 28 Octovriou Str., 2414 Nicosia, Cyprus or P.O. Box 22063, 1517 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel: +357 22 819 819 Fax: +357 22 819 815 Email: cda@cytanet.com.cy Website: www.dental.org.cy</p>	<p>Dental Services Nicosia General Hospital 1450 Nicosia Cyprus Tel: +357 22 801511, +357 99 685190 Fax: +357 22 669148, +357 22 592606 Email: Plambrou@ds.moh.gov.cy Website: www.moh.gov.cy</p>
<i>Main Professional Journal</i>	<i>Competent Authority:</i>
<p>Dental Revue (ODONTIATRIKO VIMA) 1, 28 Octovriou Str., 2414 Nicosia, CYPRUS or P.O. Box 22063, 1517 Nicosia, CYPRUS Tel: +357 22 819 819 Fax: +357 22 819 815 Email: cda@cytanet.com.cy Website: www.dental.org.cy</p>	<p>Cyprus Dental Council 1, 28 Octovriou Str., 2414 Nicosia, CYPRUS or PO.Box 22063, 1517 Nicosia, CYPRUS Tel: +357 22 819 819 or +357 24 654 525 Fax: +357 22 819 815 or +357 24 625 516 Email: www.dental.org.cy Website: cdcouncil@dental.org.cy</p>

There are no dental schools in Cyprus