

CODE OF PRACTICE

TOBACCO USE

The NZDA accepts that tobacco use is associated with many adverse effects on various body tissues and organ systems. A large body of scientific evidence demonstrates clearly the effects of tobacco upon the oral tissues - viz an increased risk of neoplastic change in the oral mucosa and an increased risk of developing destructive periodontal disease. Tobacco use is also associated with a reduced healing capacity of the oral soft tissues and periodontal tissues.

The NZDA is supportive of moves by government and non-governmental groups to reduce the use of tobacco by New Zealanders. It also supports government bans on the sale of smokeless tobacco in New Zealand.

The NZDA recommends that:

- all members and their staff are well informed on the effects of tobacco use on the oral tissues
- all members refrain from smoking; members should consider carefully the benefits to be gained from ceasing smoking if they currently use tobacco
- all members provide a smoke-free workplace and encourage staff who smoke to cease this habit
- all members record information about smoking as part of a patient's medical history
- all members undertake a thorough examination of the oral cavity and related oral structures
- appropriate information on the effects of smoking is available to patients
- all members educate their patients on the adverse effects of tobacco use, emphasising the oral changes which may occur as well as the systemic effects
- all members and their staff develop the skills to encourage and support patients who wish to cease smoking
- all members provide encouragement to those patients who do not use tobacco products, especially the young
- all official meetings of NZDA and its branches are smoke-free (NZDA policy)