

FDI DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

Early Detection of HIV Infection and Appropriate Care of Subjects with HIV infection/AIDS

Science Committee

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2 The pandemic of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the acquired
3 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is now in its fourth decade, with over 70 million
4 people infected, 35 million carriers of HIV, around 2.3 million newly infected, and 1.6
5 million deaths from AIDS in 2012. The widespread use of antiretroviral agents and other
6 measures has remarkably reduced the disease severity of patients and new infections,
7 through the joint efforts of governments, international organizations, health-care
8 professionals and community leaders worldwide. HIV infection and AIDS have thus
9 become a predominantly chronic condition in many countries, and those infected
10 experience a fairly normal life expectancy, albeit with increased risk to aging, chronic
11 disorders and other long-term complications. A few examples of possible elimination of
12 HIV using novel approaches have raised hopes. However, it would be premature to
13 assume that the end of HIV/AIDS is in sight. New infections continue to occur, and are
14 concentrated among specific at risk populations. Diagnosis is still late in many cases and
15 treatment remains unavailable or inaccessible for the vast majority of those infected
16 globally. Furthermore, AIDS malignancies and other late complications continue to be a
17 huge burden of morbidity and mortality, and will persist for the foreseeable future. No
18 vaccine is yet available.

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20 Oral lesions are prominent in the clinical course of HIV/AIDS. Oral health-care
21 professionals can play important roles in the identification, prompt diagnosis and
22 management. Studies exploring the nature, etiology and management of the orofacial
23 complications of HIV/AIDS are valuable in the overall approach to the pandemic. Saliva-
24 based tests for HIV are now widely used, and novel technologies for this as well as other
25 agents are evolving.

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Statement

27 FDI should

- 28 • Advocate, support and work to implement strategies for effective involvement of
29 oral health-care professionals in HIV/AIDS prevention and management
30 programmes.
- 31 • Develop strong links with all major stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS field in order to
32 better serve the affected populations.
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- Contribute to educational initiatives that facilitate the detection of oral mucosal lesions of HIV/AIDS by oral health-care professionals, and enhance their roles in managing the pandemic.
 - Support programmes that explore and facilitate the implementation of best practices for the prevention, early diagnosis and management of the orofacial complications of HIV/AIDS.

41 **References**

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