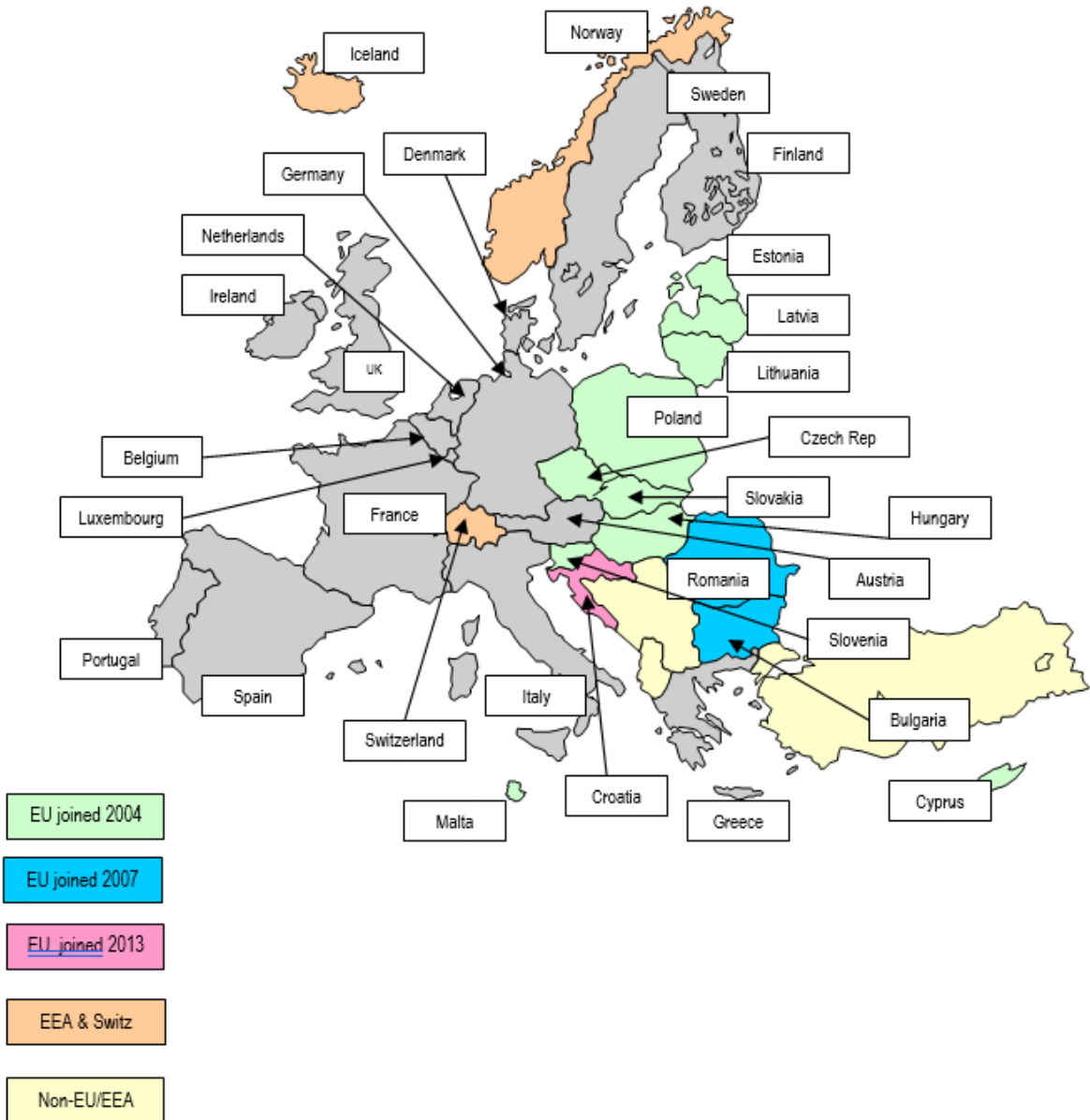


Council of European Dentists

MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Kazakhstan





Kazakhstan



Status in Europe/EU	Not an EU Member or candidate country
Population (2025)	20 791 621
GDP PPP per capita (2023, \$)	38 515\$
Currency	The Kazakhstani Tenge ₸ (KZT) 595 KZT = 1€ (2025)
Official language	Kazakh (Russian: for international communication)
Kazakhstan operates a centralized healthcare system administered by the Ministry of Healthcare. Public health services are delivered through regional health departments across 14 regions (oblasts) and 3 major cities. Since the major government reforms of 2020, the system has been guided by the principles of universal health coverage. Healthcare is provided through a dual-package model: the state-guaranteed benefits package, ensuring access to essential services for all citizens and legal residents and a statutory social health insurance package, funded through social contributions.	
Number of dentists (active)	4 000
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	19,23
General practitioners frequently specialise, with 6 one-year specialised training programmes available. Dental auxiliaries commonly practice alongside dentists but are not officially recognised. CPD is mandatory for all dentists	

Date of last revision: 13.04.2026

Government and healthcare in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is a presidential republic with strong executive powers. The country's Parliament is bicameral, consisting of the Senate and the *Mazhilis* (lower house). The Mazhilis has 98 elected members, and the Senate comprises 50 deputies, with 40 elected indirectly through regional representative bodies (maslihats of regions and cities) and 10 appointed by the President, including those nominated by the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan.

The Parliament approves the national budget, including health expenditure. The Ministry of Healthcare is responsible for developing health policy, regulations and standards, including contributing to defining the services covered under the statutory social health insurance scheme.

The social health insurance fund manages the insurance contributions from individuals, employers, and the state (where applicable), contracts with healthcare providers, and ensures implementation of insured health services. Legislative amendments affecting SHI are being adopted, with further changes expected in 2026.

Administratively, Kazakhstan is divided into regions ("oblasts") and cities, operating under the Ministry of Healthcare to implement public health programmes and monitor compliance with health regulations at local level.

Kazakhstan underwent structural reforms since 2020, by strengthening the social health insurance system. Healthcare coverage was expanded, with local budgets covering contributions for unemployed and vulnerable populations, insured status retention periods were adjusted, and new transparency obligations were introduced both under the SHI system and provider contracts.

Public healthcare services are divided into **two separate benefits packages** through a dual-package model. This includes a state-funded and guaranteed benefits package,

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	3.5%	2016	OECD
% of this spent by government	65.3%	2021	OECD

entitled "**Guaranteed Volume of Free Medical Care**" ("*Тегін медициналық көмектің кепілдік берілген көлемі*" (**ТМККК**)), available to all citizens and permanent residents, and a **statutory health insurance package** (*Міндетті әлеуметтік медициналық сақтандыру*), **МӘМС/МÄMS**) for insured individuals.

Statutory social health insurance (MÄMS) in Kazakhstan is funded through payroll contributions. Employers contributed 3% of employees' wages (capped at 10 times the minimum wage), while employees paid 2% in 2024.

Self-employed individuals, including private practitioners and entrepreneurs, contributed 5% of wages, equivalent to 1.4 times the minimum wage or KZT 5,950 (around €12) per month (2024).

The state covers contributions for 15 exempt categories, including children, unemployed residents, pregnant women, caregivers, people on parental leave, and pensioners. In 2024, more than 11 million people were insured through state-funded contributions.

Dental care in Kazakhstan is predominantly delivered by private practices, while publicly funded dental services remain limited. Co-payments are common, and out-of-pocket spending is the main source of funding.

Under the statutory social health insurance scheme (MÄMS), basic emergency and preventive dental care is provided for insured individuals. Free dental care is available to children under 18, pregnant women, pensioners, persons with

disabilities, large families (“*Altyn alka*” or “*Kumis alka*” medals) and socially vulnerable groups.

Covered services include preventive check-ups, simple fillings, tooth extractions, and fluoride applications for children, as well as emergency dental care and limited orthodontic services for children 6-12 from low-income families with dental malocclusions, and for children with congenital craniofacial anomalies.

Dental services under the statutory social health insurance are provided in public dental clinics, children’s polyclinics and dental offices within primary health care facilities.

However, most restorative, orthodontic, prosthetic, and aesthetic procedures are excluded and must be paid out-of-pocket or through voluntary health insurance. No general dental services are included under the state-funded package of free medical care (KTMKK).

Private dental clinics are concentrated in major urban centres such as Almaty, Astana, and Shymkent, while rural regions often rely on under-resourced public facilities, limiting access to care. Overall, dental expenditure accounts for less than 5% of total health spending, leaving large disparities in availability and affordability of oral healthcare across the country.

The government has implemented various oral health initiatives in schools and primary care settings to promote prevention, including mobile dental clinics in rural areas.

Despite significant reforms, Kazakhstan’s healthcare system continues to face challenges such as regional disparities in oral healthcare access, limited availability of specialized services in rural areas, and strong workforce shortages, especially among dental and primary healthcare professionals.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

Students in Kazakhstan must graduate secondary school education, present a high school diploma and participate in final state exams, providing an end-of-school certification. Students who wish to pursue higher education or obtain state grants must take the entrance exam for universities, known as the Unified National Testing (UNT).

Aspiring universities students present both the end-of-school certification and the UNT as admission requirements. Dental programmes are usually available through university dental schools or university departments of dentistry or stomatology under Kazakh Faculties of Medicine.

Foreign applicants may need to demonstrate proficiency in Russian or Kazakh depending on the language of instruction at the specific university. At least five universities also offered dental programmes in English in 2026, under the names "Dentistry", "Stomatology", "Dental Medicine". These programmes may however only offer part of the programmes in English, with some teaching remaining in Kazakh or Russian. Programmes partly taught in English may also require a proof of English proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS).

Year of data	2025
Number of schools	9
Student intake	~350
Number of graduates a year	~350
Gender balance (% of female students)	70%
Duration of studies	6

Students can apply to one of the 9 dental schools in Kazakhstan, located in Astana, Almaty (3 schools), Karaganda, Semey, Aktobe, Turkistan, or Shymkent.

Undergraduate dental degrees last a total of 6 years, with 5 years of university training, after which students acquire a "Bachelor of Health in Dentistry". This title is followed by mandatory vocational training through a 12-month clinical internship in an accredited dental clinic, following which graduates obtain the official title of "General Dentist" and the authorisation to practice independently.

Registration

Dental graduates must register with the Ministry of Healthcare of Kazakhstan, and specifically within the dedicated Regional Healthcare Care Department, to obtain a license to practice autonomously.

Cost of registration	15 000 tenge (25€)
Yearly membership fee	10 000 tenge (15.80€)

Foreign-trained dentists must apply for recognition of their dental diploma, which includes verification of certifications and level of training, the completion of a language proficiency test in Kazakh or Russian. In some cases, foreign-trained dentists must also undergo additional postgraduate training and examinations as well as the obligation to carry out a 12-month vocational training.

A registration fee paid to the Ministry of Healthcare is mandatory for foreign-trained dentists (see below)

Vocational Training (VT)

Mandatory vocational training in the shape of a 12-month internship in an accredited clinical practice is required in order to obtain authorisation to practice independently.

Language requirements

A language proficiency test must be taken by non-Kazakh graduates and foreign-trained dentists in Kazakh or Russian.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development is mandatory for all dentists in Kazakhstan, with a required number of hours to be carried out every 5 years to maintain the license to practice.

The coordination and supervision of CPD activities is of the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, and the accreditation of CPD activities is carried out by the Ministry of Healthcare. University dental schools and faculties, as well as the Kazakhstan Stomological Association (KSA) plan and deliver CPD courses and qualification improvement.

This includes clinical hands-on courses, training through conferences, symposia, lectures or seminars as well as web-based learning. The KSA also promotes educational events such as conferences, seminars, congresses and qualification enhancement courses.

The cost of continuing professional development training must be borne by the dentist, with no free of charge state training.

Specialist Training Requirements

Dental graduates must complete the 1-year mandatory vocational training year after graduating and before applying for postgraduate training.

Post-graduate training is available in most universities offering undergraduate dental programmes, by specialising in a subject through a master's degree. Specialist training programmes are supervised and accredited by the Ministry of Healthcare.

6 dental specialities and OMFS are recognised in Kazakhstan:

- Oral surgery – 1 year (internship) or passing state examinations in oral surgery by dental general practitioners
- Orthodontics – 1 year (internship) or passing state examinations in orthodontics by dental general practitioners
- Endodontics – 1 year (internship), or through carrying out a minimum number of hours or endodontic clinical procedures by dental general practitioners.
- Paediatric Dentistry – 1 year (internship)
- Periodontology – 1 year (internship), or through carrying out a minimum number of periodontic clinical procedures by dental general practitioners
- Prosthodontics – 1 year (internship) or through producing a minimum number of prosthodontics by dental general practitioners
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) – 3 years of clinical training residency

Workforce

Dentists

Year of data	2022
Total Registered	4 000
In active practice	4 000
(Active) dentist to population ratio*	19,23
Percentage female	70%
Foreign-trained dentists	NA
<i>*active dentists only, per 100 000 inhabitants</i>	

Movement of dentists across borders

There is a notable movement of dental students to Kazakhstan, especially from neighboring Central Asian countries and international students, who are attracted by affordable tuition fees and high-quality dental education. Many students opt for dental studies in Kazakhstan due to the opportunity to study in Russian or Kazakh and sometimes in English, making it accessible for foreign students.

Graduates from Kazakhstan's dental schools often move to other countries to practice, particularly within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Kazakhstan's dental qualifications are recognized within the Union, allowing smooth facilitated migration of professionals across borders between Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

Administrative requirements remain however necessary for registering and obtaining a certificate of practice as a dental professional in the host country, as well as providing proof of language proficiency. Requirements vary depending on the country in the EAEU.

On the other hand, the outward movement of Kazakh dentists to foreign countries remains relatively low compared to other medical professions. This is partly related to lengthy and complicated processes and requirements for the recognition of foreign dental diplomas, and strict re-licensing barriers.

Specialists

In Kazakhstan, the dental profession includes a variety of specialists. The growing demand for specialized dental care has led to an increased number of professionals in various fields of dentistry. The specialties in Kazakhstan are recognized as master specialties, with usually 1-year mandatory additional training (through clinical supervised training).

Specialists must register their additional qualification with the Ministry of Healthcare of Kazakhstan. Specialists practice both in public and private settings.

The exact number of practising dental specialists is unknown in Kazakhstan.

Year of data	2024
Oral Surgeons	NA
Orthodontists	NA
Endodontists	NA
Paediatric dentists	NA
Periodontists*	NA
Prosthodontists	NA
OMFS	NA

Auxiliaries

Dental auxiliaries are not officially recognised under health-law of by the Ministry of Healthcare in Kazakhstan. There is therefore no legal scope of work for dental auxiliaries, including technicians, dental assistants and hygienists. These professionals do not hold an official licensed status.

The categories of dental technician, dental assistant and dental hygienist are however listed under the national "Classifier of specialties and qualifications". This document lays out existing technical and vocational education in Kazakhstan, and available training paths for these dental auxiliaries.

Training courses are offered for training of dental technicians, dental hygienists, orthopaedic dentists and dental assistants, either through medical colleges, or through short courses and masterclasses for dental auxiliaries. These informal or CPD courses are provided by private and educational bodies.

The number of employed or practising auxiliaries in Kazakhstan remains unclear, as there is no official national licensing.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
Kazakhstan Stomatological Association (KSA)	United Kazakhstan Association of Dentists
<p>Nazhmidinova Street 10/1, NP 10-B Astana Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel : +7 (701) 773-24-56 Email: kaz.stom@bk.ru Website: https://ksa-fdi.kz/en</p>	<p>98 Kurmangazy Street 050012 Almaty Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: +7 701 876 55 00 Email: asipo@mail.ru Website: https://ekas.org.kz/</p>

Competent authorities

The Social Health Insurance Fund - <i>Фонда медицинського страхования</i> (created in 2016)	Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<p>Headquarters: 13/3 Dostyk str. Astana Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: +8 (7172) 67 46 74 Email (general requests): kanc@fms.kz Website: https://msqory.kz/</p> <p>For contact detail of Regional Branches of the Health Insurance Fund: https://msqory.kz/en/eshche/kontakty/filialy/</p>	<p>Mangilik El 8 Ave. House of Ministries, 5nd entrance, 010000 Astana city Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: + 8 (7172) 74-31-71 +8 (7172) 74-36-95 Email: minzdrav@dsm.gov.kz Website: https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/dsm?lang=en</p>

Main Professional Journal
<p>Scientific and practical journal "DentistKazakhstan" - by the Kazakhstan Stomatological Association</p>
<p>Nazhimedonov str. 10/1, n/p10b Astana Kazakhstan</p> <p>Email: info@dentistrykazakhstan.kz Website: https://dentistrykazakhstan.kz/</p> <p>Journal available in English, Russian and Kazakh</p>

Dental Schools:

Public University	
<p>Almaty Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) – Faculty of Medicine and Health Care – Department of Stomatology</p>	

<p>71 Al-Farabi Avenue Almaty 050040 Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: +7 727 377-33-33 Tel admission: +7 (727) 377-33-30 Fax: +7 (727) 377-33-44 Email: med@kaznu.kz Website: https://farabi.university/programs/2446?lang=en Website dental programme: https://welcome.kaznu.kz/en/education_programs/bachelor/speciality/2446</p> <p>Number of students (2023 - 2024): 183 Language of teaching: Kazakh, Russian, English</p>	
<p>Private Universities</p>	
<p>Almaty Kazakh National Medical University (KazNMU) - School of Dentistry</p>	<p>Astana Astana Medical University – School of Dentistry</p>
<p>94 Tole Bi Street Almaty Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: +7 727 291-11-35 Tel admission: +7 727 338-70-27 Email: dekanat@kaznmu.kz <i>Department of Orthopaedic dentistry: ortstom@kaznmu.kz</i> <i>Department of Paediatric Dentistry: stomdet@kaznmu.kz</i> <i>Department of Therapeutic Dentistry: terstom@kaznmu.kz</i> <i>Department of Surgical Dentistry: ulmeken@inbox.ru</i></p> <p>Website: https://stomatology.kaznmu.edu.kz/en/</p> <p>Total number of undergraduate students (2024 - 2025): 800-900 Number of specialising interns (1-year postgraduate internship, 2024-2025): 100-130 Language of teaching: Kazakh, Russian, English</p>	<p>Beibitshilik st., 49a Astana Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: + 8(7172)56-98-28</p> <p>Email: detochkina.v@amu.kz Website: https://amu.edu.kz/en/departments/192/</p> <p>Language of teaching: English</p>
<p>Karaganda Karaganda Medical University – School of Dentistry</p>	<p>Semey Semey Medical University – Department of Dental Disciplines and Maxillofacial Surgery</p>
<p>Karaganda, Alalykina St. 14, Kazakhstan Phone numbers;</p> <p>Phone: +7 (7212) 50-06-40 Phone: +7 (7212) 42-52-67 Phone (Dean Kalina Ainur Serikovna) : +7 7212 503930</p> <p>Email: info@qmu.kz Email undergraduate education: tuleutaeva@qmu.kz Dean email: kalina@qmu.kz Website: https://qmu.edu.kz/en/education/schools-and-departments/schools/school-of-dentistry/</p> <p>Number of students (2025): 838 Language of teaching: Kazakh, Russian, English</p>	<p>77 Zhamakaev St., study building Abai Region, Semey city 071400 Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: + 8 (7222) 56-28-81 Email: pediatric.dentistry@smu.edu.kz Website: https://smu.edu.kz/en/org-structure/departments/department-of-dental-disciplines-and-maxillofacial-surgery/</p> <p>Language of teaching: Kazakh, Russian, English</p>
<p>Aktobe West Kazakhstan Marat Ospanov Medical University – Faculty of Dentistry</p>	<p>Shymkent (Turkistan) Shymkent State Medical Academy – Faculty of Medicine - Department of Dental Disciplines</p>

<p>68 M. Ospanov Street Aktobe Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel (University): +7 (713) 233-74-54 Tel (Faculties of Public Health, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing): +8 (7132) 56 21 67 Email: stomfak@zkmu.kz Website: https://zkmu.edu.kz/en/stomatologiya-6vm10110/</p> <p>Language of teaching: Kazakh, Russian, English</p>	<p>1, 8 March Street Shymkent Kazakhstan</p> <p>Tel: + 8 (778) - 554-97-81 Email: stom_kolledj-2022@mail.ru Website: https://skma.edu.kz/en/pages/department-of-dental-disciplines-college</p> <p>Language of teaching: Kazakh, Russian, English</p>
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