



AAOMS Health Reform Principles

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional association representing the more than 8,500 oral and maxillofacial surgeons is a committed stakeholder in efforts to reform America’s health care system. AAOMS recognizes the need to improve our nation’s health care system so that it is accessible, affordable and provides the finest quality of care for all Americans. We further urge Congress and the Administration to consider the following guiding principles when developing and implementing any health care reform proposals:

Principle #1

The role oral health plays in a person’s overall health is often overlooked and poor oral health care may lead to larger health care conditions/implications. Ensuring access to oral health for all populations must be included in health care reform discussions.

- a. AAOMS supports coverage of essential oral and maxillofacial surgery services under health care programs.
- b. AAOMS supports using incentives, such as scholarships, loan forgiveness, subsidies, and tax credits, to increase the number of oral and maxillofacial surgeons serving underserved populations.
- c. AAOMS supports the position that all irreversible surgical procedures delivered within the scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery, including all extractions, should be provided only by practitioners having attained the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) or their equivalent (or by those with an M.D. where permitted by law).
- d. AAOMS supports actuarially sound increases in payment to providers of health care programs to increase access to care.

Principle #2

Health care reform should build upon the current successful health care system structures in place to provide quality access to care

- a. AAOMS does not support a substantial eligibility expansion of government programs such as the Medicaid and SCHIP programs as the primary mechanism to achieving access to care.
- b. AAOMS supports incentives to encourage individuals/small businesses to purchase health care coverage in the private market.
- c. AAOMS supports the ability to obtain insurance across state lines.
- d. AAOMS does not support any reform proposals that include a single-payer government-run health care system.



Principle #3

An adequate supply of oral and maxillofacial surgeons in all segments of society is crucial to addressing access disparities and the growing health needs of Americans. Quality health care reform should ensure fair compensation for services.

AAOMS specifically supports the following concepts:

- a. Addressing reimbursement for uncompensated care, especially emergency room care;
- b. Allowing non-contracted doctors to receive full payment by billing patients for the non-covered portion of their bill;
- c. Tort reform;
- d. Amending federal anti-trust laws to allow doctors to collectively negotiate;
- e. Continued input by the specialty on any clinical measures or health outcomes used in determining standards of care or reimbursement for the respective specialty;
- f. Providing a long-term overhaul of the Medicare physician reimbursement system; and
- g. Providing adequate federal support of oral and maxillofacial surgery residency training programs in order to ensure an adequate workforce.

Principle #4

The creation of a nationwide, interoperable and affordable health information technology (IT) system is an integral part of improving patient care and lowering health care costs.

- a. AAOMS supports using a method of financial incentives to encourage compliance and to avoid unfunded mandates.
- b. AAOMS supports adequate provider input to ensure interoperability.