



Utilization of Established Data Transaction Standards

Health information technology (HIT) has the potential to revolutionize the health care delivery system and dramatically improve patient care and practice efficiency. The inability of HIT systems to transfer information between multiple platforms, however, hinders the flow of vital information and opens up practitioners to the possibility of medical errors.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) are the surgical specialists of the dental profession who diagnose, treat, and manage the conditions, defects, injuries, and aesthetic aspects of the mouth, teeth, jaws, and face. OMSs practice in hospital, ambulatory, and office settings performing procedures that incorporate elements of both medicine and dentistry. OMSs rely on a wide range of tools during their daily practice including practice management, billing, and imaging systems, all of which must communicate code sets for both medical and dental procedures.

Several accredited bodies (including the Accredited Standards Committee X12, Standards Committee on Dental Informatics, Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange, and Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine) work to establish standards for data transactions. When these standards are adopted, data can easily transmit between practitioners, ensuring the integrity and security of information.

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) encourages vendors to fully integrate these transaction standards into their systems to advance the interoperability of electronic health records and other HIT. The AAOMS further encourages practitioners to consider HIT systems that utilize these transaction standards and provide interoperability.

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