



Anatomical and Degree of Provider Discrimination

The dental specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery is the specialty responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of congenital, pathological and traumatic disorders of the maxillofacial complex. Recognition of this expertise is the result of the specialty's unique education, training, surgical experience and research endeavors. All oral and maxillofacial surgeons who complete this rigorous training program are surgically competent to treat such disorders of the maxillofacial complex.

Many types of craniofacial disorders result from congenital defects, developmental anomalies, pathologic and traumatic conditions that affect the skeletal complex of the face, head and neck region. These conditions are similar to ones affecting the musculoskeletal complex in other parts of the body resulting in abnormal function and disability. The Surgeon General's September 2000 report, "Oral Health in America," states that one in six children in America is plagued by these types of conditions, which often require surgical procedures for correction.

It is the position of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) that any health insurance contract or policy that provides coverage for diagnostic or surgical procedures involving the musculoskeletal system shall not discriminate against coverage for any similar diagnostic or surgical care involving the maxillofacial region. Furthermore, given the standing of oral and maxillofacial surgery as the specialty treating these types of conditions, it is the position of AAOMS that discrimination based on the academic degree(s) of the provider should be considered illegal.

Reaffirmed January 2025, AAOMS Committee on Governmental Affairs

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