



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons:  
The experts in face, mouth and jaw surgery\*

## AAOMS Statement on Office-Based OMS Anesthesia

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recently revised the personnel section of their "Guidelines for Monitoring and Management of Pediatric Patients Before, During, and After Sedation for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures." These changes have been supported by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA), American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA) and Society for Pediatric Sedation (SPS).

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) was not invited to be part of the process to revise these personnel guidelines, and decisions were made without the input only oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) could have provided. These guidelines may negatively impact the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery and our patients, and AAOMS urges these organizations to withdraw their support of the revised personnel section. In no way does AAOMS condone the degradation of the OMS specialty, the procedures performed by our members or the safe anesthesia provided to our patients.

AAOMS stands firmly in support of its fellows and members continuing to deliver anesthesia and sedation in their office-based practices. OMSs are fully trained in both surgery of the face, mouth and jaw and pain control through the delivery of various types of anesthesia and sedation. Their unique training allows for the simultaneous management of their patients' surgical needs while safely maintaining their pain control. The advanced education and training OMSs receive, including extensive training in anesthesia, are exemplary.

Patient safety has been and always will be paramount to our surgeons and this Association. OMSs consider whether the office environment is the right facility to perform the necessary clinical procedures to achieve a successful outcome, and discuss all treatment options, including anesthesia options, with their patients and families.

The unique OMS anesthesia team model has consistently been proven as safe, effective and affordable. In addition to the training and professional judgment of the OMS, practices are subject to review by state dental boards and the mandated Office Anesthesia Evaluation program of this Association. These regulations assure that proper emergency safeguards are in place and proper patient selection protocols are adhered to.

AAOMS commends our members for their commitment to patient safety and encourages them to continue to treat patients as they have in a safe, effective and affordable manner. We will continue to dedicate significant resources to ensure that oral and maxillofacial surgery patients have unrestricted access to necessary, appropriate care performed safely by qualified OMS professionals.

**AAOMS Board of Trustees**