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## **TOPICS AT A GLANCE**

- Our **fully redesigned AAOMS.org website is now live** with improved navigation, readability and the overall visual appeal. The site is user-friendly, mobile-responsive and informative for both members and the public. Navigation is divided into five main categories that are designed to locate information quickly and efficiently without unnecessary clicks or searches. So, check it out.
- **The New Mexico** legislature has passed [SB 78](#), a bill that allows **CRNAs to provide anesthesia care without physician supervision**, marking a significant policy shift in the state. The bill now heads to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), who is expected to sign it into law.
- **Utah** became the first in the country to **ban fluoride in public drinking water** when Gov. Spencer Cox (R) signed [HB 81](#) into law on March 27, despite opposition from the ADA and the Utah Dental Association. While many states allow such decisions to be made by local municipalities, this represents the first statewide prohibition.
- **Nevada** recently passed and the governor signed into law [AB 221](#), which amends a previous law requiring licensed physicians and licensed dentists to obtain a permit from the appropriate governing entity, to provide anesthesia services (GA, MS, CS, DS) in the state of Nevada. This meant that previous law required dual-degree OMS's to obtain and pay for **two permits** covering each license.

The new law is now amended to require **only one anesthesia permit** from either entity to provide anesthesia services in the state of Nevada. **Dr. Steven Saxe with the assistance of AAOMS staff** played an integral part in the passage of this Bill. This is yet another example of what organized advocacy can accomplish and **what the AAOMS does for you as members / fellows**.

- **AAOMS's member-facing podcast series** – called **AAOMS On the Go** – publishes new podcasts twice a month. The podcasts can be downloaded or listened to on AAOMS.org/podcasts or popular podcast platforms such as Spotify. Topics cover research, advocacy, affiliate organization news, JOMS, practice management and more. Encourage members to listen and submit topics and speakers for future podcasts.
- The Committee on Practice Management and Professional Staff Development has created an **informational video on oral surgery assisting** to help OMSs recruit potential candidates for assisting jobs at OMS practices. View the video at [AAOMS.org/OralSurgeryAssistant](#)
- **Model State Anesthesia Regulations** endorsed by AAOMS, the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA), and the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), are available to state societies upon request. Contact [squenther@aaoms.org](mailto:squenther@aaoms.org).
- **AAOMS has launched the Milestones Campaign**, a new public health initiative to educate and guide parents and guardians on prioritizing oral health at key ages. AAOMS collaborated on the campaign with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). All three associations aim to raise awareness about the importance of visiting dental specialists at foundational oral health milestones at ages 1, 7 and 15. The cornerstone of the campaign is television and radio public service announcements that have been distributed nationally. Visit [MilestonesMet.org/](#) for information and to watch the video.

- **Remember** ... courses to satisfy the training requirement for **DEA licenses/renewals (MATE Act)** are complimentary to members through 2025. Visit <https://www.aaoms.org/member-center/member-news/dea-announces-mate-act-training-requirement>.
  - **AAOMS** now provides a **CE Online Dashboard to manage your CE**. visit [CEonline.AAOMS.org/My-dashboard](https://CEonline.AAOMS.org/My-dashboard).
  - **2025 AAOMS Annual Meeting, Washington DC, September 17- 20, 2025**; registration is now open & hotel discount rates are available. All the details can be found at [AAOMS.org/AnnualMeeting](https://AAOMS.org/AnnualMeeting).
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### [MORE DETAILS ...](#)

## [Anesthesia](#)

- In 2023, AAOMS, the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA) and the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) worked together to develop [model state anesthesia regulations](#). These guidelines serve as a resource for legislators and regulatory agencies to craft fair and effective policies on sedation and general anesthesia in dental settings. The framework balances professional expertise with state-specific considerations to promote both safety and practicality.

Recently, the three organizations issued a [clarifying statement](#) underscoring that states should tailor the regulations to fit their unique needs rather than adopting a uniform approach. By encouraging flexibility, the groups aim to support patient safety while ensuring the guidelines can be effectively implemented across different healthcare systems.

**Questions? Contact [Sandy Guenther](#).**

- After years of opposition from provider groups, the **New Mexico legislature has passed [SB 78](#)**, a bill that **allows CRNAs to provide anesthesia care without physician supervision**, marking a significant policy shift in the state.

The New Mexico Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons joined the New Mexico Society of Anesthesiologists in opposing the legislation. Despite these efforts, SB 78 passed unanimously in the House and received only two dissenting votes in the Senate. The bill now heads to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), who is expected to sign it into law.

- **AAOMS** continues to gather essential data from third party entities such as privately billed insurance claims to be utilized to advocate for the safety of the OMS anesthesia team model and offers the Dental Anesthesia Incident Reporting System (DAIRS) ([AAOMS.org/DAIRS](https://AAOMS.org/DAIRS)) to report adverse events. Please encourage your member to report adverse events through DAIRS.

- Dr. Greg Ness's presentation on the anesthesia evaluation program to the 2024 **AAOMS** House of Delegates was recorded as an **AAOMS On the Go podcast** and is available for listening on [aaoms.org/media/podcasting](https://aaoms.org/media/podcasting).

## **OBEAM at State and Regional Society Meetings**

- **A total of 1,724 OMS's have completed OBEAM since its inception in 2019**
- **An estimated 1,310 OMS's will complete OBEAM in 2025**
- **Opportunities to complete OBEAM exist through several courses offered in Rosemont, IL, at AAOMS Head Quarters; at the Annual meeting in Washington, DC; six simulation equivalency providers; and course opportunities at state and regional meetings.**
- **AAOMS** continues to provide the opportunity for OMS state societies and regional societies to offer the Office-Based Emergency Airway Management (OBEAM) module.
- **For State and Regional meetings, AAOMS** will provide the simulators, station equipment, staff, tech support and member facilitators to run the OBEAM course.
- **For details and availability, please contact Mary Allaire-Schnitzer at AAOMS at 800-822-6637 ext. 4315 or via email at [mallaire@aaoms.org](mailto:mallaire@aaoms.org)**

**REMEMBER: OBEAM completion DEADLINE is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 !!**

- During the two-hour OBEAM module, participants review and practice concepts and skills for sedation monitoring and techniques for supplemental oxygen, opening an airway, bag-valve-mask (BVM) ventilation using one- and two-handed techniques, laryngeal mask airway (LMA) insertion and use of the Airtraq laryngoscope for endotracheal intubation (a procedure during which a tube is inserted into the windpipe). Ventilation parameters are manipulated so difficult BVM can be practiced and mastered after mastery of BVM in a normal configuration.
- Hands-on session will utilize five (5) of the **AAOMS** Laerdal 3G simulators, allowing 10 surgeons to participate during each two-hour session.
- For 2025 offerings of the Office-Based Emergency Airway Management (OBEAM) at the Daniel M. Laskin Institute for OMS Education and Innovation at **AAOMS** headquarters in Rosemont, Ill, please visit [aaoms.org](https://aaoms.org). OMSs can expect to master techniques for administering and monitoring the office-based delivery of anesthesia through intensive, real-life experiences. OBEAM modules are limited to AAOMS members and fellows. Registration will be managed through **AAOMS**. Registration is \$900 per OMS and will offer 6 hours of continuing education (CE).

## **Education/Events**

- **AAOMS** offers a **Clinical CE Subscription service** that will allow OMS members to access the entire on- demand Clinical CE Online Library courses for a full year. This 24/7 access to the **AAOMS** clinical course catalog includes over 100 hours of content and is updated with at least 20 new courses annually. The Clinical CE Subscription is \$299 for a full year. More information can be found at [AAOMS.org/CESubscription](https://AAOMS.org/CESubscription)
- Two webinar bundles consisting of recordings of several **coding and billing webinars** are now available for \$495 each, providing an opportunity to learn while saving 35 percent over buying them individually.

- Coming soon, OMS and their staff will be able to register for the **AAOMS Coding Certificate Program (CCP)** bundle at a discounted rate when compared to purchasing each course individually. The CCP Bundle will consist of Basic Coding, OMS Billing and Beyond the Basics Coding.
- If you are looking for information on **offering continuing education credits for state or regional OMS** societies through the **AAOMS joint providership program**; please visit [www.aaoms.org/jointprovidership](http://www.aaoms.org/jointprovidership). A new video has been added to the existing resources on the AAOMS web site to help guide you through the process. Questions can be directed to the Continuing Education Department at [conteducate@aaoms.org](mailto:conteducate@aaoms.org).
- A **new transcript feature** in the **CE Online Dashboard** can be used to store outside continuing education credits within your AAOMS account. Not only can you store all AAOMS CE Online courses automatically, but the feature also allows you to import external credits, so all CE credits can be kept in one place. Visit [CEonline.AAOMS.org/My-dashboard](http://CEonline.AAOMS.org/My-dashboard) to learn more about this new feature.
- To see upcoming **AAOMS** meetings, webinars and other educational opportunities available, please visit <https://www.aaoms.org/meetings-exhibitions/upcoming-events>

## **Governance and Membership**

- Review annual membership reports, rosters, and advocacy resources via the dedicated Connect Group for Regional and State OMS society officers and executive staff. Contact [membership@aaoms.org](mailto:membership@aaoms.org) with any questions.
- **States:** Please make sure to send delegate and alternate names and contact information to **AAOMS** as soon as possible, as well as the dates and locations for all State Society meetings including district caucus meetings so they can be added to the **AAOMS** calendar.
- **Interested in sharing your OMS story with your colleagues?** Participate in **AAOMS's Member Spotlight series**. More information is available on [aaoms.org/memberspotlight](http://aaoms.org/memberspotlight).
- Support your professional staff and save – learn more about **allied staff membership** at AAOMS.org or email [membership@aaoms.org](mailto:membership@aaoms.org).

## **Advocacy**

### **FEDERAL ISSUES:**

- The **24th Annual Day on the Hill** brought near record participation from **more than 100 AAOMS members** from across the country to Washington, D.C. on March 26 to educate members of Congress and their staff about the OMS specialty and advocate for the Association's federal legislative priorities, which included [student loan repayment reform](#), [solutions to drug and supply shortages](#), [coverage for congenital craniofacial anomalies](#) and a [reversal of the 2025 Medicare physician payment cuts](#). By the time the event concluded, 86 OMSs and 21 residents from 40 states plus the District of Columbia - including 49 first-time attendees - had met with 180 congressional offices. **It was the largest number of states represented since AAOMS began consistently tracking in 2013.**

**Strengthen the impact** of your colleagues' in-person meetings by sending your constituent members of Congress pre-drafted emails, ensuring the specialty's priorities remain top of mind. ***It only takes five minutes!***

- Be sure to save the date for the **25th annual AAOMS Day on the Hill** taking place on **March 17-18, 2026**. Visit [AAOMS.org/DayontheHill](https://AAOMS.org/DayontheHill) to view photos from this year's event.
- The **RAPID Reserve Act** was reintroduced last week in both the Senate and House as [S 2062](#) and [HR 3955](#). The bill would award federal contracts to American-based manufacturers – or those located in certain foreign countries – to incentivize them to maintain reserves of essential medications and build the capacity to scale up production in response to future public health threats and supply chain challenges.
- The **MAPS (Mapping America's Pharmaceutical Supply) Act** ([S 1784](#)), another bill we advocated for during Day on the Hill, which would create a comprehensive database to track the entire pharmaceutical supply chain. A companion bill has not yet been introduced in the House.

***We strongly encourage you to contact your members of Congress through our [grassroots campaign](#) and urge them to support these bills.***

- **The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL)** is drafting a [model bill](#) to restrict facility fees for certain procedures performed in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). After reviewing the proposal and identifying no major concerns, **AAOMS submitted a letter to ensure the legislation does not inadvertently affect OMSs.**

In its [comments](#), AAOMS stressed the challenges OMSs encounter in obtaining hospital operating room access for complex dental procedures and highlighted the critical role of the HCPCS G0330 code in securing appropriate reimbursement for dental cases requiring hospital- or ASC-based care. The Association urged NCOIL to take these factors into account to avoid unintended consequences that could disrupt prior advocacy achievements.

- **AAOMS Members** are **encouraged** to sign up for **advocacy alerts** by texting **“AAOMS” to 50457**. The campaign on reversing the calendar year 2025 Medicare physician payment cuts is available at [AAOMS.org/TakeAction](https://AAOMS.org/TakeAction).
- For 2025, CMS has expanded Medicare coverage for medically necessary dental services inextricably linked to successful medical outcomes for patients with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) who are undergoing dialysis. Read AAOMS's comments [to CMS](#).
- **AAOMS** continues to monitor the **No Surprises Act**, with summaries, FAQs and other resources available at [www.aaoms.org/practice-resources/coding-reimbursement](https://www.aaoms.org/practice-resources/coding-reimbursement).

## **>>Advocacy Alert<<**

- Despite legislative efforts to prevent the cut, Medicare Part B providers, including OMSs, began incurring a **2.83 % cut on Jan. 1**. This comes on top of a 1.69 % cut in 2024.
- A bipartisan group of House members recently introduced the **Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act (HR 897)** that would halt the existing cut and provide a **6.62 % payment update effective April 1 through the end of the year to offset the pay cut and adjust for inflation**.



- **AAOMS Members** are encouraged to sign up for advocacy alerts by texting “**AAOMS**” to **50457**. The campaign on reversing the calendar year 2025 Medicare physician payment cuts is available at [AAOMS.org/TakeAction](http://AAOMS.org/TakeAction).
- **Please contact** your constituent members of Congress to ask them to support **HR 879**. Physicians’ Medicare reimbursement has declined 33 percent since 2001, when adjusted for inflation.
- **Please Note: Medicare reimbursement impacts all OMS’s – not just Medicare Providers – as health insurers often base their payments on Medicare reimbursement rates.**

## **STATE ISSUES:**

- The **State Legislative Tracking Map on the AAOMS website** provides quick access to the status of all issues impacting OMS. Access at [AAOMS.org/TrackingMap](http://AAOMS.org/TrackingMap).
- States facing legislative or regulatory challenges specific to OMS and in need of financial assistance to address are invited to apply for the **AAOMS State Advocacy Grant – or SAG**. The program requires a dollar- for-dollar match by the state society, are limited in number and available on a first-come first-served basis. Additional requirements, including the application, are available at [AAOMS.org/SAG](http://AAOMS.org/SAG).
- The **AAOMS** continues to work with the **New Hampshire Society of OMS** on efforts to oppose requiring a separate anesthesia provider when treating patients aged 0-8 with DS/GA.

Under the new provisions, dentist anesthesiologists and OMS’s may apply for an exemption from the requirement to use a separate anesthesia provider when treating patients aged 13 and under. To qualify, practitioners must meet specific conditions, including completion of an airway management course, an ASA evaluation and the presence of appropriate staff. Monitoring assistants involved in these cases must hold either DAANCE or PALS certification.

For patients **aged 8 and under**, additional requirements apply. Dentist anesthesiologists and OMSs must obtain a pediatric endorsement, which entails completing a CODA-accredited residency program within the past two years and documenting at least **20 pediatric deep sedation or general anesthesia cases** within that age group over the same period.

An emergency exemption process is also included in the proposal. This allows providers to bypass the standard requirements in urgent situations by submitting a form to the dental board. The proposal will return to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) for review and approval. A hearing was scheduled for April 18 (see following).

### **New Hampshire Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) Meeting – April 18, 2025**

AAOMS monitored the New Hampshire Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) meeting, where proposed updates to dental anesthesia regulations were reviewed, as recommended by the NH Board of Dentistry and at the meeting this morning, **JLCAR approved the Dental Boards amended regulations following the outline of our model regs**. Instead of losing 8u anesthesia as the dental board initially passed back in Nov/Dec they have **now adopted our model regs requirements modified to 20 cases every 2 years similar to Ohio’s regs**.

**GREAT NEWS!** Victory for NH OMS's and kudos to Sandy, Srini, and Karin for all their hard work!

***Yet ... another example of what the AAOMS does for you ...!***

- **HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** announced on April 7 that he plans to direct the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to **stop recommending that state and local governments add fluoride to public drinking water**. He also stated his intention to form a task force to reevaluate the health impacts of fluoride. This announcement coincided with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to review new scientific information regarding potential health risks associated with fluoride consumption to inform any changes to the national standards.
- *On that same note ...* **Utah** became the first in the country to **ban fluoride in public drinking water** when Gov. Spencer Cox (R) signed [HB 81](#) into law on March 27, despite opposition from the ADA and the Utah Dental Association. While many states allow such decisions to be made by local municipalities, this represents the first statewide prohibition.

The ADA issued a [statement](#) criticizing Utah's decision, citing extensive evidence that ending fluoridation leads to increased dental disease, particularly among children and vulnerable populations. They urged legislators nationwide to trust credible science showing that fluoridation is a cost-effective public health measure that prevents cavities, saves money and reduces the burden of dental care. The bill is set to go into effect on May 7.

## [Informational Campaign](#)

- **MyOMS.org** continues to grow in popularity – with about 1 million page views each year and more than 65,000 visitors to the website using the Find a Surgeon function.
- **More than 200 videos and 20 infographics** are featured on the MyOMS.org website and are available for members to download and use on their practice sites.
- **AAOMS** continues to get a lot of free advertising (total broadcast audience of 1.4 billion) from **seven TV Public Service Announcements** – with a cumulative equivalent ad dollar value of more than **\$34.7 million**; and radio PSAs have generated an equivalent ad dollar value of more than **\$5.3 million**.
- A **public-facing podcast series** – **OMS Voices: An AAOMS Podcast** – debuted in 2023. Members can share the podcasts on their personal websites.

## [Communications](#)

- To honor the 2025 Annual Meeting theme, **AAOMS Today** is publishing **“The Patients We Serve” stories** in every issue. The stories focus on unique patients and the differences OMSs can make in their lives.
- Follow the **AAOMS LinkedIn account** at [LinkedIn.com/company/AAOMS](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AAOMS) to learn about the latest news about the Association's initiatives, publications and offerings. The account on the business-focused social media platform has almost 15,000 followers who can read about the latest JOMS research, advocacy updates, podcasts, CE courses and more.

## [OMS Foundation](#)

- The Foundation extends its gratitude to every donor who answered the year-end appeal and thanks ***OMS Partners*** for affirming that ***AAOMS, OMS Partners and the OMS Foundation*** are, without question, ***“stronger together.” The Foundation is key to maintaining our position in healthcare with research and education for the specialty.***