



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons



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Federal Affairs

Congressional Leaders Seek to Avoid Government Shutdown

Congress has yet to pass any of the 12 appropriations bills to fund the government into the new fiscal year, which starts October 1. With time running out, congressional leaders are now working to put together a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government at current levels through the end of the calendar year. To complicate matters, conservative members of the Republican Party are threatening to vote against the CR, unless it includes language to defund Planned Parenthood. Since President Obama has vowed to veto a bill that includes such language, a government shutdown would occur if Congress is unable to muster enough votes to pass a CR that the president will sign by October 1. Republican leaders, fearful of revisiting the backlash that resulted from the 2013 shutdown, are looking at ways to avoid another shutdown, including sidestepping their conservative GOP colleagues and partnering with Democrats to pass a bill that the President will sign.

Congressional Action on Medical Device Tax Repeal Is Questionable this Year

Please use [AAOMS's grassroots system](#) to contact your Senators and encourage them to pass medical device tax legislation before the end of this year. When the House passed the HR 160 in June, momentum seemed to be building for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act's 2.3 percent tax on medical devices. However, further action has stymied in the Senate as debate continues on whether the cost of the tax repeal needs to be offset with other revenue. Additionally, the emergence of other ACA-related issues, specifically legislation to repeal the so-called "Cadillac tax" on high-cost employer health plans and legislation to repeal language forcing employers with 51 to 100 employees into the small group insurance market, has diverted congressional attention. Some health policy experts believe that Congress may act on these two issues first. It's up to us to make sure that the device tax is not overlooked!

President Obama Selects Duke Physician to Lead FDA

President Obama announced on September 15 that he will nominate Dr. Robert Califf, a cardiologist and researcher from Duke University, to replace former FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, who left the agency in March. Califf, who has served as FDA's deputy commissioner since January, was widely expected to replace Hamburg after her departure. His nomination is subject to approval by the Senate, but industry experts do not expect him to face significant opposition.

Don't miss the Government Relations Open Forum at the AAOMS Annual Meeting

If you're coming to Washington, DC for the AAOMS Annual Meeting later this month, be sure to attend the Government Relations Open Forum, [Health Reform: The Government and Your Practice](#), on Thursday, October 1 from 1:30 – 3:30pm in Room 102 of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Led by Christopher C. Rorick, MPA of Bryan Cave, one of AAOMS's DC representatives, the Forum will feature an update on Congress' health care-related agenda. This important session is open to any annual meeting attendee and will consider the many implications of federal health care policy changes on your patients and OMS practice.

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State Affairs

States Take Action on Controlled Substances

While many state legislative sessions have adjourned for the year, there has been action regarding the prescribing of controlled substances. Vermont recently became the last state to allow practitioners to electronically prescribe Schedule II substances. Prescribers in all states must now use certified eRx software to electronically prescribe controlled substances.

Additionally, the governors of all six New England states sent a [letter](#) on August 31, urging the head of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require changes on labels for immediate release (IR) opioids to assure patients and doctors understand the risk of addiction, overdose, neonatal abstinence syndrome and death associated with the drugs. Noting that the FDA already requires the most restrictive labeling “black box” warning language for extended release and long-acting (ER-LA) opioids, the governors urged the FDA to require similar warning language for IR opioids.

Health Information Technology

New Jersey Slow to Adopt EHRs

A [new report from the CDC](#) shows that in 2014, office-based physicians in North Dakota had the highest percentage (79.1%) of adoption of electronic health records (EHRs), while New Jersey had the lowest rate (29.2%). Nationally, 50.5% of physicians used EHRs last year.

Practice Management

Health Care Tops List for Data Breaches; Learn How to Minimize the Impact on your Practice

According to a [report by the Gemalto](#), an international digital security company providing software applications, secure personal devices such as smart cards and tokens, and managed services, the health care industry had the highest number of data breaches in the first half of 2015, accounting for 27% of all incidents. In the second half of 2014, health care only accounted for 5.2% of all stolen records. The biggest breach so far in 2015 was the identity theft attack on Anthem in February. This single incident accounted for 32% of all records exposed in the first half of 2015. Learn how to minimize the impact of a data breach on your practice by purchasing a recording of the recent AAOMS webinar: "[Protecting Your Practice: Is Your Office Technology Putting You at Risk?](#)"

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is September 26

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is partnering with local law enforcement communities across the country to host the 10th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 26, 2015, from 10am to 2pm local time in every state except Delaware and Pennsylvania, which held their events on September 12. The Take-Back Day allows residents to safely and anonymously dispose of unwanted, unneeded or expired medications free-of-charge. Collection sites and information for every local community can be found by going to www.dea.gov. AAOMS encourages members to share this information with their patients.

Is Your Practice Ready for the ICD-10-CM Transition?

Is your practice ready for the October 1, 2015 transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10-CM? While CMS has offered a one-year grace period for Medicare claims, which states that “starting October 1, Medicare claims will not be denied solely on the specificity of the ICD-10 diagnosis codes provided, as long as the

physician submitted an ICD-10 code from an appropriate family of codes,” this policy pertains only to Medicare Administrative Contractors and Recovery Audit Contractors. AAOMS staff reminds you that the grace period for Medicare claims may not be adhered to by private payers or Medicaid. If you are concerned that you and your office staff need additional information, AAOMS offers a number of courses and resources that may help.

- [ICD-10-CM Coding Online](#) – This is the same dynamic training content that is presented during the AAOMS in-person ICD-10-CM course. Learn about the history, structure and format of ICD-10-CM, see how ICD-10-CM compares to ICD-9-CM, and learn how to apply the new coding conventions and guidelines to OMS diagnostic code assignment. The online course allows you to up to 60 days to process and complete the course at your own pace.
- [AAOMS ICD-9 to ICD-10-CM Reference Card](#) - This two-sided, laminated chart lists the diagnosis codes most commonly used by OMSs in the old ICD-9-CM coding system and compares them to their counterparts in the new ICD-10-CM system. Buy several for your office. AAOMS member price: \$35
- [ASI partner Optum360TM](#) - AAOMS members are offered savings of up to 20% on OMS-specific coding solutions and select Optum360 ICD-10 products, including the updated ICD-10 manual and online EncoderPro.
- [AAOMS ICD-10-CM Frequently Asked Questions-](#) Have a question about ICD-10-CM implementation? It may have been answered in this list of frequently asked questions posted on the AAOMS website. This link also provides quick access to additional coding and reimbursement information pertinent to an OMS practice, such as Medicare enrollment/opting out; advanced imaging accreditation; and much more.

New Online Course: Help Your Anesthesia Assistants Brush Up on Their Skills!

AAOMS's new [On-Line Anesthesia Review for Dental Anesthesia Assistants](#) focuses on the principles of anesthesia administration and benefits both OMS and dental anesthesia assistants. Covered topics include basic sciences, patient evaluation and preparation, anesthetic drugs and techniques, monitoring, and emergency procedures. Because this is an online educational program, participants work through the material at their own pace and can log in at any time to complete the course – whether they're in the office, or in the comfort of their own home. To learn more or register, visit www.aaoms.org/pas.