

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



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Position Paper

AAOMS Definition of “Medical Necessity”

Medical necessity is defined as the need for an item or service(s) for the diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment and follow-up care of the diseases, injuries, and congenital or developmental defect(s) that affect the hard and/or soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.

A medically necessary procedure or treatment is appropriate for the diagnosis and/or treatment of the patient’s condition, illness, disease or injury and in accordance with current standards of good practice. Failure to intervene in these instances could result in significant medical/dental health consequences.

Medically necessary decision making must take into account the patient’s age, developmental status, and psychosocial well-being. Additionally, management of the patient’s anxiety and comfort related to any recommended surgical service may require light to deep sedation or general anesthesia administered by the surgeon or an independent provider, as indicated by the surgeon’s assessment of the patient’s co-morbidities and the intended surgical service.