

2021 UOAA Federal Advocacy Priorities

UOAA is the leading organization advocating for the 725,000 to 1,000,000 people living with an ostomy or continent diversion in the United States as well as the approximate 100,000 new patients facing ostomy surgery annually.

Patient Access to Affordable Quality Care

If the new White House Administration and 117th Congress considers making any changes to the U.S. healthcare system, they must work together to find bipartisan solutions, and it is critical that basic patient protections are maintained including limiting patient out-of-pocket spending and the prohibition on discrimination against pre-existing conditions.

Preserving and Promoting Access, Choice and Value for Consumers of Ostomy and Urological Products

We want to ensure that all individuals with a medical condition or disability requiring urological or ostomy prosthetic supplies have access to the supplies prescribed by their health care providers. Policymakers need to 1) recognize that individuals require access to urological and ostomy prosthetic supplies that meet their specific medical needs, and that such products are not one-type-fits-all commodities, and 2) ensure Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers within state/federal health care marketplaces cover the full range of prescribed urological and ostomy prosthetic supplies, and do so in a manner that is not economically burdensome for the consumer. Furthermore, they must also ensure adequate reimbursement for these supplies as it is an indispensable part of payers achieving the Triple Aim of health care.

UOAA also supports the passage of the following legislation:

- **Safe Step Act:** This is a balanced public policy proposal that works to reform step therapy. The bill requires that insurers implement a clear and transparent process for a patient or physician to request an exception to a step therapy protocol. It also requires a group health plan respond to an exemption request within 72 hours in all circumstances, and 24 hours if the patient's life is at risk.

The above list is not all-inclusive. We also support the public policy agendas of our partner coalitions such as the Access and Care Coalition (ACC), and the Digestive Diseases National Coalition (DDNC).

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