

2024 UOAA Advocacy Goals and 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. The following list, not all-inclusive, includes some of the advocacy work we will be doing in 2024:

Collaborative Advocacy Efforts

- With the Digestive Disease National Coalition continue to support the legislative priorities for the 118th Congress including the Safe Step Act, HELP Copays Act and Medical Nutrition Therapy Act and items for enhancing the workforce for access to WOC nurses and access to ostomy supplies

Ostomy and Continent Diversion Patient Bill of Rights (PBOR)

- Continue outreach for utilization of the [PBOR](#) and sharing of the [White Paper](#) to drive systemic change in ostomy care

Access to Quality Ostomy Care and Supplies

- Promotion of new interactive online resource “*Roadmap to Establishing Outpatient Ostomy Services*” being launched in 2024
- Development of a new nationwide online directory for outpatient ostomy services
- Continue to advocate for proper coverage of ostomy supplies under Medicare/Medicaid and commercial plans
- Continue to advocate for educating medical professionals on caring for ostomates

Ostomy Awareness

- Celebrate World Ostomy Day in the United States on October 5, 2024

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