



## OSTOMY AND CONTINENT DIVERSION PATIENT RIGHTS ENDORSEMENT LETTER

There are between 725,000 to one million people in the United States living with an ostomy or continent diversion. Every year approximately 100,000 people undergo this life-saving surgery. Unfortunately for many people who have experienced ostomy or continent diversion surgery there frequently is inadequate and inconsistent care delivered by health care providers among facilities and geographic areas. Not being provided proper ostomy care can have negative consequences for this population including diminished quality of life, greater hospital readmission rates, and poor patient outcomes.

The magnitude of this problem leads us to believe this is of great concern in the United States. In response, United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. (UOAA) has revised the Ostomy and Continent Diversion Patient Bill of Rights (PBOR) to better reflect the experience of ostomates. The revised Patient Bill of Rights further expands awareness of the standards of ostomy care over a lifetime and is both patient-centered and evidence-based. It identifies the needs and expectations for those needing this type of surgery and for the community of people who are currently living with an ostomy or continent diversion. It outlines recommendations for best in practice quality ostomy care for health care professionals. Health rights are human rights.

Ostomy rights must be respected by the government, politicians, health care authorities, insurers, companies and suppliers, by doctors and nurses and by everyone.

We, the undersigned, support and endorse the Ostomy and Continent Diversion Patient Bill of Rights and recognize that utilization of these rights in all health care settings, will be the start of necessary system wide change to achieve “gold standard” ostomy care in the United States.

For more information about the revised patient bill of rights, visit [ostomy.org](http://ostomy.org).

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American College of Gastroenterology

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons

Better Health

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International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders

National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy

Newbie Ostomy

Safe-N-Simple

Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

The Wound and Ostomy Education Program at The Valley Foundation School of Nursing, San José University

The Wound Company

To-Day's Ostomy Solutions

United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.

Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Certification Board

Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society