PROTECTING ACCESS, PRESERVING STABILITY

**Ostomy care is a delicate balance,
Medicare policy changes could disrupt it.**

UOAA United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.
ostomy.org

2026 UOAA survey responses from 935 Original Medicare beneficiaries

Most beneficiaries have already found a pouching system that works for their body, their clinical needs, and their daily life.



96%
rate their current supplies good or excellent

77%
have used their current setup for at least 1 year



68%
chose current supplies to prevent medical problems

67% had no hospital, ER, doctor, or nurse visit related to ostomy supplies



OSTOMY PRODUCTS ARE PROSTHETICS, NOT INTERCHANGEABLE COMMODITIES.

LACK OF ACCESS COULD FLIP THE SCALES

61%
have experienced alternatives that did not uniformly work well

38%
currently use products from multiple manufacturers

WHEN NON-MEDICAL SUPPLY CHANGES HAPPEN, CONSEQUENCES ARE ALREADY BEING REPORTED

Among 228 respondents who reported a non-medical supply change:

- **57%** skin problems
- **51%** leakage
- **19%** doctor/nurse visit
- **4%** hospital stay

WILL THE POLICY CHANGE TO INCLUDE OSTOMY SUPPLIES IN MEDICARE'S COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH AN OSTOMY?

Source: UOAA 2026 national anonymous online survey of 2,504 respondents had 935 Original Medicare beneficiaries. All percentages use the full beneficiary sample unless otherwise indicated. ***Survey results establish a Medicare Competitive Bidding Program (CBP) pre-implementation baseline; they do not measure post-CBP outcomes.***