

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

Report to the Intersociety Pathology Council

March 2, 2014

**Valerie A. Murrah, D.M.D., M.S.
AAOMP Representative to IPC**

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Significant advocacy issues this year have focused on raising awareness within the dental community concerning the value of both clinical and tissue referrals to oral and maxillofacial pathologists to enhance their patient care efforts. The Academy has signed onto the American Dental Association "Specialty Scan" newsletter in order to bring periodic newsworthy items to the generalist dental community and to the dental speciality communities. There has also been an emphasis on working with American Dental Association lobbyists in Washington, D.C., to raise awareness on the national level to some of our concerns.

The PECOS system has been one of the most frustrating issues for practicing laboratory oral and maxillofacial pathologists, as claims are being denied if referring dentists are not registered in the PECOS system. As many dentists are not Medicare providers, they often see no reason to be registered simply for the purpose of referral. This issue impacts all pathology laboratories, as no pathology laboratory providing Medicare services can bill Medicare for biopsies referred by non-PECOS-registered dental or physician providers.

The AAOMP has posted three position papers on its web site intended to inform medical and dental professionals on clinical and scientific developments in the etiology, pathogenesis and treatment of diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial regions.

These position papers include:

- Bisphosphonates and osteonecrosis of the jaws.
- Critical evaluation of diagnostic aids for the detection of oral cancer.
- Policy on excised tissue.

Another recent development on the web site of the AAOMP is the Atlas of Foreign Materials observed within biopsies from the oral cavity. The atlas provides hematoxylin and eosin photomicrographs, as well as other types of imaging, such as polarized light and electron microscopy.

In the advocacy portion of the web site, the AAOMP indicates that it supports the following initiatives in conjunction with CAP:

- COGME Statement for the Record (2013-09)
- Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) (VBM) Provisions (09-06-2013)
- Letter Opposing Drastic Cuts by CMS

AAOMP Annual Meeting, April 25 - 30, 2014

Renaissance World Golf Village Resort
500 South Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Speakers: Stephen T. Sonis, William Westra, Daniel A. Arber

Keynote seminar by Dr. McCarthy entitled: "Diagnostic Pitfalls of the Maxillofacial Skeletal"

AAOMP Membership Statistics:

Fellows: 274

Diplomates of the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology: 252

Non-fellow members: 252