

January 28, 2019  
Dr. Greg Oppenhuizen

The 2018 AAO House of delegates adopted a new policy position on craniofacial treatment to assure that children with craniofacial problems obtain insurance coverage for all necessary therapeutic treatment:

**08-18 RC –Policy on Craniofacial Treatment**

*RESOLVED, that for the purpose of third-party reimbursement, the AAO considers serial reconstructive, orthodontic, and restorative therapies to be medically necessary treatment for craniofacial anomalies (CFA) to ensure a reasonable quality of life for affected individuals.*

*Coverage should extend throughout their lifetime, and be it further,*

*RESOLVED, that the AAO support legislation stipulating that insurers recognize the sequential nature of reconstructive, orthodontic, and restorative therapy for CFA, which requires ongoing coverage for all aspects of the treatment plan.*

*In most states, insurance providers are able to independently establish their own reimbursement protocol for handling insurance claims related to craniofacial anomalies. The goal of 08-18 is to create a more uniform insurance standard throughout the United States to help these children receive all essential treatment from infancy to adulthood.*

*Through efforts on the part of the AAO Council on Orthodontic Health Care, Missouri has been identified as the first state for work toward the goal. The AAO Board of Trustees has appropriated \$50,000 from the Component Legal Defense Fund to begin the process.*

*To learn more about this, contact Greg Oppenhuizen, Chair AAO Council on Orthodontic Health Care (doctorgjo@gmail.com).*