

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Healthcare Coverage for the Uninsured

Lack of insurance or inadequate healthcare coverage can result in insufficient or delayed treatment, premature death, and financial burden because of costly emergency care. In the United States, decreased employer-based coverage and other factors have led to crisis levels of uninsured individuals. These individuals have limited access to oncology services, including cancer prevention, risk reduction, early detection and screening, treatment, and follow-up care.

It is the Oncology Nursing Society's position that every American citizen has healthcare coverage by 2010 and the U.S. Congress and president act promptly to establish and implement an explicit plan to meet that goal.

This plan should ensure that healthcare coverage

- Be accessible, affordable, continuous, and comprehensive
- Reimburse for services provided by APRNs
- Encourage individuals to seek appropriate cancer services and care.

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