



PREVENTING DISEASE / IMPROVING THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH

Increased access to affordable care, while vitally necessary for fixing our broken health system, is only part of the answer. True reform requires an increased emphasis on prevention to reduce the strain that disease and poor health exert on our health care system. Investments in prevention are cost-effective and beneficial, particularly compared to treating a preventable illness.

Preventive services can be divided into two general groups. Clinical preventive services are delivered individually by a doctor or other health worker in a standard health setting. Community preventive services are delivered outside of this traditional clinical structure and are frequently implemented across targeted groups.

Examples of Preventive Services	
Clinical Preventive Services	Community Preventive Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cancer screenings (breast, cervical, colorectal, etc.) ▪ Daily aspirin use to prevent heart disease ▪ Adult and child immunizations ▪ Adult vision screening ▪ Hypertension treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Telephone “quit” lines to help smokers kick the habit ▪ Distribution of child safety seats ▪ Improving healthy food availability at worksites to reduce obesity ▪ Educating diabetics about blood sugar control (at churches, libraries, etc.)

Affordable Health Care for America Act’s prevention and wellness provisions present a comprehensive policy designed to ensure that all Americans receive state-of-the-art clinical and community preventive services. The legislation undertakes a coordinated effort to make comprehensive prevention research, evaluation, and delivery a permanent part of the national landscape.

PREVENTION AND WELLNESS:

- Eliminates cost-sharing on recommended preventive services delivered by Medicare and Medicaid and all insurance plans available in the Health Insurance Exchange.
- Expands the capacity of two independent, advisory task forces — the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (TFPCS) — to conduct rigorous, systematic reviews of existing science to recommend the adoption of proven and effective services.
- Provides new investments in the science of prevention to further expand the base of information available for evaluation by the task forces.
- Delivers clinical preventive services by including USPSTF-recommended services in Medicaid and insurance available in the Health Insurance Exchange.
- Delivers community preventive services by investing in state, territorial, and local public health infrastructure and by providing grants to implement TFPCS-recommended services.
- Expands Preventive Services that Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) can be reimbursed for under Medicare. Current law only includes a limited number of services in the calculation of the current Medicare cost-based reimbursement formula for FQHCs.