

Dated: July 30, 2010.

Jennifer S. Spaeth,
Director, Office of Federal Advisory
Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Solicitation for Nominations for New Clinical Preventive Health Topics To Be Considered for Review by the United States Preventive Services Task Force

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research
and Quality (AHRQ), DHHS.

ACTION: Solicit for new topic
nominations.

SUMMARY: The Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality (AHRQ) invites
individuals and organizations to
nominate primary and secondary
prevention topics pertaining to clinical
preventive services that they would like
the United States Preventive Services
Task Force (USPSTF) to consider for
review. All topics previously reviewed
by the USPSTF are available on AHRQ's
Web site, <http://www.preventiveservices.AHRQ.gov>.

The USPSTF is an independent panel
of experts that makes evidence-based
recommendations regarding the
provision of clinical preventive services.
Clinical preventive services include
screening, counseling and preventive
medications associated with primary
care. The USPSTF makes
recommendations about preventive
services for asymptomatic people—
people without recognized signs or
symptoms of the specific condition
targeted by the preventive service.

Topics can be nominated by
individuals, organizations, evidence-
based practice centers (EPC) and
USPSTF members. The USPSTF will
consider topic nominations in two
steps. The USPSTF will first determine
if the topic relates to a service is
eligible, *i.e.*, constitutes primary or
secondary prevention applicable to
healthy asymptomatic persons; is
primary care-feasible or referable from
primary care; and addresses a condition
with a substantial health burden. As a
second step, within eligible topics, the
USPSTF will prioritize based on the
following set of criteria: Public health
importance (burden of suffering,
potential of preventive service to reduce
the burden); and potential for greatest
Task Force impact (*e.g.*, clinical

controversy, practice does not reflect
evidence, inappropriate timing in
delivery of services).

Basic Topic Nomination Requirements

Nominations must be no more than
500 words in length and must include
the information listed below.
Nominations may include supporting
documentation; reference lists and other
supporting documents are not counted
against the 500 word limit, but should
not exceed ten pages.

Required Information

1. Name of topic.
2. Rationale for consideration by the
USPSTF, describing:
 - a. Characterization as primary or
secondary prevention topic (screening,
counseling or preventive medication).
 - b. Primary care relevance (applicable
clinical preventive service must be
provided by a primary care provider and
or initiated in the primary care setting
which can be defined as family practice,
internal medicine, pediatrics or
obstetrics/gynecology).
 - c. Public health importance (burden
of disease/suffering, potential of
preventive service to reduce burden,
including effective interventions).
Citations and supporting documents are
recommended.
 - d. Potential impact of USPSTF's
review of the topic, *i.e.*, change in
clinical practice, research focus, *etc.*

DATES: Topic nominations should be
submitted by August 27, 2010 in order
to be considered for 2010-2012. AHRQ
will not reply to submissions in
response to the request for nominations,
but will consider all topic nominations
during the selection process. If a topic
is selected for review by the USPSTF,
the nominator will be notified by
AHRQ.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations
to: Gloria Washington, ATTN: USPSTF
Topic Nominations, Center for Primary
Care, Prevention & Clinical
Partnerships, Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality 540 Gaither Road,
Room 6117, Rockville, MD 20850. Fax:
301-427-1595. E-mail:
gloria.washington@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Cosby at robert.cosby@AHRQ.hhs.gov or Gloria Washington at
gloria.washington@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

Arrangement for Public Inspection:
All nominations will be available for
public inspections by appointment at
the Center for Primary Care, Prevention
& Clinical Partnerships, 301-427-1500,
weekdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
(Eastern time).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under Title IX of the Public Health
Service Act, AHRQ is charged with
enhancing the quality, appropriateness
and effectiveness of health care services
and access to such services. AHRQ
accomplishes these goals through
scientific research and promotion of
improvements in clinical practice,
including prevention of diseases and
other health conditions. 42 U.S.C.
299(b).

The United States Preventive Services
Task Force (USPSTF) is an independent
expert panel, first established in 1984
under the auspices of the U.S. Public
Health Service. Under AHRQ's
authorizing legislation, see 42 U.S.C.
299b-4(a)(1), the Director of AHRQ is
responsible for convening the USPSTF,
which is to be composed of individuals
with appropriate expertise. The mission
of the Task Force is to review the
scientific evidence related to the
effectiveness, and appropriateness of
clinical preventive services for the
purpose of developing
recommendations for the health care
community. Current Task Force
recommendations and associated
evidence reviews are available at
<http://www.preventiveservices.AHRQ.gov>.

Topic Nomination Solicitation

The purpose of this solicitation for
new topics by AHRQ and the USPSTF
is to create a balanced portfolio of
relevant topics for the current Task
Force library. Balance in the library is
sought on the basis of populations,
types of services (screening, counseling,
preventive medications) and disease
types (cancer; heart and vascular
disease; injury and violence-related
disorders; infectious diseases; mental
disorders and substance abuse;
metabolic, nutritional and endocrine
diseases; musculoskeletal conditions;
obstetric and gynecological conditions;
pediatric disorders; and, vision and
hearing disorders). Selection of
suggested topics will be made on the
basis of the qualifications of
nominations as outlined above (*see*
basic topic nomination requirements).

Dated: July 26, 2010.

Carolyn M. Clancy,

Director.

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