

Who Will Determine Who Gets a Mammogram and How Often Under ObamaCare?

As everyone is aware by now, the 16-member U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstfab.htm>) ruled that women under 50 don't need breast cancer screening. The Harry Reid health reform bill (which the Senate will begin debating on November 30), relies heavily on the Task Force's recommendations:

- The Preventive Services Task Force is mentioned no less than two dozen times in the Reid bill (26 total mentions, by our count).
- The Preventive Services Task Force reviews the effectiveness of clinical preventive services (such as cancer screening) and prioritizes each with a grade of A, B, C, D, or I. <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/ratings.htm>
- Insurers and Medicare will be required to provide coverage (without any cost sharing requirements like co-pays) for any services that the Task Force deems as an "A" or "B" priority. There are no requirements for the other priority levels.
- The Reid bill depends on the Task Force for recommendations on such things as immunizations, screenings (cancer, heart disease, diabetes, etc.), wellness promotion, disparity reductions, chronic disease mitigation, healthy behavior promotion, and other disease prevention services.

Here's a list of where we found the Task Force mentioned in the Reid bill:

- p. 17 - A group health plan and health insurance issuer will provide coverage and not have cost sharing for evidence based ratings of "A" or "B" from the task force.
- p. 1142- establishment and purpose
- p. 1143 – (4x) establishment and purpose
- p. 1144 – establishment and purpose
- p. 1145 – (5x) coordinate with the community preventive services task force and advisory committee of immunization practices
- p. 1146 - (3x) coordinate with the community preventive services task force and advisory committee of immunization practices
- p. 1149 - coordinate with the community preventive services task force and advisory committee of immunization practices
- p. 1150 – Secretary of health and human services will promote preventive services recommended by the task force
- p. 1176 – A screening schedule for the next 5 to 10 years, as appropriate, based on recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force
- p. 1185 – amendment to social security act to include: “(or 100 percent if such services are recommended with a grade of A or B by the United States Preventive Services Task Force for any indication or population and are appropriate for the individual)” after “80 percent”
- p. 1186 - recommendation of services
- p. 1187 - (2x) recommendation of services
- p. 1188 - assign grade for services
- p. 1189 - recommendations for services
- p. 1190 - (2x) determining payments and assign grades for services