



Affordable Care Act: Prevention in Medicaid

Prior to the Affordable Care Act, coverage of preventive services in Medicaid was inconsistent across states. All states provided mammograms as required by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act (BCCPTA). However, access to preventive services such as tobacco cessation and colorectal cancer screenings varied significantly because of different enrollment requirements by state.

When given access to preventive services programs, Medicaid beneficiaries participate at high rates.

Fast Facts

- In 2007, 33% of Medicaid enrollees were current smokers, compared to 19% of those enrolled in private insurance.
- In 2007, only six states provided full access to tobacco cessation services for all Medicaid enrollees.

Medicaid coverage of preventive services is essential to improving the long-term health and well-being of our nation's most vulnerable populations.

Highlights of Medicaid Prevention in the Affordable Care Act

- The law gives states the option to include preventive services graded "A" or "B" by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force in their Medicaid program benefits. States that provide these services will receive a 1% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). (*Beginning 2013*)
- The law requires state Medicaid programs to cover cessation services for pregnant women. These services will be available without cost-sharing requirements such as co-pays or deductibles. (*Beginning October 1, 2010*)
- The law eliminates exclusions in drug coverage for prescription cessation treatments and FDA-approved over-the-counter cessation tools if the pharmaceutical company has an existing rebate agreement with Health and Human Services. (*Beginning January 1, 2014*)

Implications for the American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

- ACS CAN places high priority on public policies that help reduce health disparities by confronting the sources of illness before they develop and detecting diseases such as cancer early, when it is easier to survive and less expensive to treat.
- ACS CAN will urge the HHS Secretary to consider the Society's preventive services guidelines that have proven effective in reducing cancer risk along with recommendations of the USPTF.