



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

August 03, 2015

Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

Grant Activity

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html

Guidance

7/24/15 The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued two notices under ACA §4205 related to revising a [proposed rule](#) called "Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels." The proposed rule updates the Nutrition Facts label for conventional foods and dietary supplements to address new scientific information and design changes in labeling.

FDA issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking called "Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels; Supplemental Proposed Rule to Solicit Comment on Limited Additional Provisions." After completing consumer research, the FDA is proposing revisions of the proposed rule (which was published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2014) in order to add proposed text in a footnote on the label and to establish an addition to the label, a Daily Reference Value (DRV) of 10% of total energy intake from added sugars.

Comments are due October 13, 2015.

Read the notice at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-27/pdf/2015-17928.pdf

FDA issued a notice called, "Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels; Reopening of the Comment Period as to Specific Documents." The FDA is reopening the comment period for the proposed rule (which was published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2014) in order to solicit comments on two consumer studies being added to the administrative record. The two studies conducted in June 2015 were related to the proposed changes to the format of the Nutrition Facts Label.

Additional information about the studies can be found in the notice and at: www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm455837.htm

Comments are due September 25, 2015.

Read the notice at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-27/pdf/2015-17929.pdf

Prior guidance can be found at: www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html

News

7/28/15 The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued a draft recommendation statement on screening for depression in all adults over the age of 18, including pregnant and postpartum women.

The USPSTF's review concluded that screening for depression by primary care physicians will help to identify depression and connect patients with appropriate treatment and support. As a result, the Task Force assigned a "B" grade to the recommendation. The Task Force also recommends that the screening be done in a primary care setting with adequate systems in place to ensure accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and appropriate follow-up.

According to the USPSTF, depression is one of the leading causes of disability in adults and is common among patients seen in primary care. Depression can impact a person's quality of life (and can significantly affect family members) and is associated with an increase in suicide rates, among other health problems. Pregnant and postpartum women are also commonly affected by depression, impacting both the mother and child. The Task Force found that people who were identified through screening and treated for depression (with anti-depressants, psychotherapy, or both) exhibited improvement in their symptoms and outcomes.

The USPSTF is an independent panel of non-federal government experts that conduct reviews of scientific evidence of preventive health care services. The USPSTF then develops and publishes recommendations for primary care clinicians and health systems in the form of recommendation statements. As part of their recommendations process, the USPSTF will assign definitions to the services they review based on the certainty that a patient will receive a substantial benefit from receiving the benefit. Services that are graded "A" and "B" are highly recommended and the USPSTF believes there is a high certainty that patient will receive a substantial or moderate benefit.

Under ACA §1001, all of the recommended services receiving grades of "A" or "B" must be provided without cost-sharing when delivered by an in-network health insurance provider in the plan years (or, in the individual market, policy years) that began on or after September 23, 2010. If the recommendation on screening for depression is finalized with a "B" rating, then such screening will be required to be provided without cost sharing.

Comments are due August 24, 2015 and can be submitted at: www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Comment/Collect/Index/draft-recommendation-statement115/depression-in-adults-screening1

Read the draft recommendation statement at: www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/draft-recommendation-statement115/depression-in-adults-screening1

Upcoming Events

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Implementation Council Meeting

Friday, September 11, 2015, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

We welcome attendance at all meetings from all stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in One Care. Reasonable accommodations will be made for participants who need assistance. Please send your request for accommodations to Donna Kymalainen at Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us.

Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the "**Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals**" initiative.



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