



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

September 19, 2016

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: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html>

Guidance

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

News

9/14/16 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) approved more than \$1.14 million for seven grant awards through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Program.

The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards encourage the active integration of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders who are part of the medical research process. The program provides a platform to expand the role of these stakeholders in research and to support PCORI engagement strategies that include developing a skilled community of patients and other stakeholders.

The seven awards will be used for the following: 1) a conference led by Columbia University for stakeholders to learn more about observational research, 2) efforts by the Texas Center for Disability Studies/University of Texas at Austin to connect researchers with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, 3) a project by MultiCare Health System in Washington to create a patient-centered adolescent and young adult council and train them on (PCOR) patient-centered outcome research principles, 4) a symposium in Florida hosted by the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine to explore scientific gaps in the assessment, treatment and

management of pain for people with cerebral palsy and similar physical disabilities, 5) the 2016 Guidelines International Network Conference in Philadelphia to improve clinical practice guideline methodology by incorporating patient-centered outcomes relevant to population health as well as the care of individuals with multi-morbidity, 6) efforts by the National Health Council to engage partners, the patient community and stakeholders to create a non-disease-specific curriculum for the patient community on health care quality, and 7) a project by the Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc. for two annual conferences, workshops and trainings to facilitate a relationship between researchers and urban, underserved populations in greater Boston around a PCOR agenda.

Created under ACA §6301, PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes and studies.

To date, PCORI has awarded approximately \$25 million to 130 projects through the Engagement Awards program.

To learn more about these awards, visit: PCORI.ORG

To learn more about the application process, visit: PCORI.ORG

9/6/16 The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued a final recommendation statement on screening for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in adults who are at increased risk for tuberculosis (TB). The USPSTF's review concluded that there are adequate and accurate screening tests available to detect LTBI in adults who are at increased risk of TB. The USPSTF also found that treatment of LTBI with regimens recommended by the CDC decreases progression to active TB. As a result, the Task Force assigned a "B" grade to the recommendation, indicating that the Task Force recommends such screening.

According to the USPSTF, TB continues to be a preventable disease in the United States. TB is spread through respiratory transmission and approximately 30% of individuals exposed to bacteria forms of TB will develop LTBI. An important strategy to reduce the transmission, morbidity, and mortality of active TB is the identification and treatment of LTBI to prevent its progression to active disease. Traditionally, public health systems have been tasked with TB prevention efforts; however, more recently, screening for LTBI has become a relevant primary care issue.

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 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. Since the recommendation on screening for LTBI was finalized with a "B" rating, then such screening will be required to be provided without cost sharing.

Read the final recommendation statement at: www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/latent-tuberculosis-infection-screening

Learn more about preventive services covered under the ACA at: HHS.Gov

Learn more about the USPSTF at: www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org

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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