



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

October 3, 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

9/27/16 The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued a draft recommendation statement on screening for preeclampsia in pregnant women. Based on its review of the evidence, the Task Force recommends screening for preeclampsia in pregnant women with blood pressure measurements throughout pregnancy. As a result, the USPSTF assigned a "B" grade to the recommendation. This draft recommendation applies to pregnant women without a current diagnosis of preeclampsia and who have no signs or symptoms of the condition.

According to the Task Force, preeclampsia is associated with high blood pressure in pregnant women. It can progress quickly and become severe. It usually begins after 20 weeks of pregnancy and is the leading cause of preterm birth in the U.S. Preeclampsia can present complications for both mother and infant. Complications for the mother include stroke, seizures, organ failure and, rarely, death. Complications for the infant include slow growth inside the uterus, low birth weight, and even death. If the condition worsens, the only way to fully treat the condition can be to deliver the baby before the baby's due date.

In order to improve outcomes for mothers and their babies, the USPSTF recommends screening for preeclampsia in

pregnant women with blood pressure measurements throughout pregnancy.

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. If the recommendation on screening for preeclampsia in pregnant women with blood pressure measurements throughout pregnancy is finalized with an "B" rating, then it will be required to be provided without cost sharing.

Comments are due October 24 and can be submitted at: <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Comment/Collect/Index/draft-recommendation-statement167/preeclampsia-screening1>

Read the draft recommendation statement at: <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/draft-recommendation-statement167/preeclampsia-screening1>

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

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

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

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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