

Dated: July 30, 2010.

**Jennifer S. Spaeth,**  
Director, Office of Federal Advisory  
Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2010-19210 Filed 8-4-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

#### Solicitation for Nominations for New Clinical Preventive Health Topics To Be Considered for Review by the United States Preventive Services Task Force

**AGENCY:** Agency for Healthcare Research  
and Quality (AHRQ), DHHS.

**ACTION:** Solicit for new topic  
nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Agency for Healthcare  
Research and Quality (AHRQ) invites  
individuals and organizations to  
nominate primary and secondary  
prevention topics pertaining to clinical  
preventive services that they would like  
the United States Preventive Services  
Task Force (USPSTF) to consider for  
review. All topics previously reviewed  
by the USPSTF are available on AHRQ's  
Web site, <http://www.preventiveservices.AHRQ.gov>.

The USPSTF is an independent panel  
of experts that makes evidence-based  
recommendations regarding the  
provision of clinical preventive services.  
Clinical preventive services include  
screening, counseling and preventive  
medications associated with primary  
care. The USPSTF makes  
recommendations about preventive  
services for asymptomatic people—  
people without recognized signs or  
symptoms of the specific condition  
targeted by the preventive service.

Topics can be nominated by  
individuals, organizations, evidence-  
based practice centers (EPC) and  
USPSTF members. The USPSTF will  
consider topic nominations in two  
steps. The USPSTF will first determine  
if the topic relates to a service is  
eligible, *i.e.*, constitutes primary or  
secondary prevention applicable to  
healthy asymptomatic persons; is  
primary care-feasible or referable from  
primary care; and addresses a condition  
with a substantial health burden. As a  
second step, within eligible topics, the  
USPSTF will prioritize based on the  
following set of criteria: Public health  
importance (burden of suffering,  
potential of preventive service to reduce  
the burden); and potential for greatest  
Task Force impact (*e.g.*, clinical

controversy, practice does not reflect  
evidence, inappropriate timing in  
delivery of services).

#### Basic Topic Nomination Requirements

Nominations must be no more than  
500 words in length and must include  
the information listed below.  
Nominations may include supporting  
documentation; reference lists and other  
supporting documents are not counted  
against the 500 word limit, but should  
not exceed ten pages.

#### Required Information

1. Name of topic.
2. Rationale for consideration by the  
USPSTF, describing:
  - a. Characterization as primary or  
secondary prevention topic (screening,  
counseling or preventive medication).
  - b. Primary care relevance (applicable  
clinical preventive service must be  
provided by a primary care provider and  
or initiated in the primary care setting  
which can be defined as family practice,  
internal medicine, pediatrics or  
obstetrics/gynecology).
  - c. Public health importance (burden  
of disease/suffering, potential of  
preventive service to reduce burden,  
including effective interventions).  
Citations and supporting documents are  
recommended.
  - d. Potential impact of USPSTF's  
review of the topic, *i.e.*, change in  
clinical practice, research focus, *etc.*

**DATES:** Topic nominations should be  
submitted by August 27, 2010 in order  
to be considered for 2010-2012. AHRQ  
will not reply to submissions in  
response to the request for nominations,  
but will consider all topic nominations  
during the selection process. If a topic  
is selected for review by the USPSTF,  
the nominator will be notified by  
AHRQ.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations  
to: Gloria Washington, ATTN: USPSTF  
Topic Nominations, Center for Primary  
Care, Prevention & Clinical  
Partnerships, Agency for Healthcare  
Research and Quality 540 Gaither Road,  
Room 6117, Rockville, MD 20850. Fax:  
301-427-1595. E-mail:  
[gloria.washington@AHRQ.hhs.gov](mailto:gloria.washington@AHRQ.hhs.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Cosby at [robert.cosby@AHRQ.hhs.gov](mailto:robert.cosby@AHRQ.hhs.gov) or Gloria Washington at  
[gloria.washington@AHRQ.hhs.gov](mailto:gloria.washington@AHRQ.hhs.gov).

**Arrangement for Public Inspection:**  
All nominations will be available for  
public inspections by appointment at  
the Center for Primary Care, Prevention  
& Clinical Partnerships, 301-427-1500,  
weekdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
(Eastern time).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Under Title IX of the Public Health  
Service Act, AHRQ is charged with  
enhancing the quality, appropriateness  
and effectiveness of health care services  
and access to such services. AHRQ  
accomplishes these goals through  
scientific research and promotion of  
improvements in clinical practice,  
including prevention of diseases and  
other health conditions. 42 U.S.C.  
299(b).

The United States Preventive Services  
Task Force (USPSTF) is an independent  
expert panel, first established in 1984  
under the auspices of the U.S. Public  
Health Service. Under AHRQ's  
authorizing legislation, see 42 U.S.C.  
299b-4(a)(1), the Director of AHRQ is  
responsible for convening the USPSTF,  
which is to be composed of individuals  
with appropriate expertise. The mission  
of the Task Force is to review the  
scientific evidence related to the  
effectiveness, and appropriateness of  
clinical preventive services for the  
purpose of developing  
recommendations for the health care  
community. Current Task Force  
recommendations and associated  
evidence reviews are available at  
<http://www.preventiveservices.AHRQ.gov>.

#### Topic Nomination Solicitation

The purpose of this solicitation for  
new topics by AHRQ and the USPSTF  
is to create a balanced portfolio of  
relevant topics for the current Task  
Force library. Balance in the library is  
sought on the basis of populations,  
types of services (screening, counseling,  
preventive medications) and disease  
types (cancer; heart and vascular  
disease; injury and violence-related  
disorders; infectious diseases; mental  
disorders and substance abuse;  
metabolic, nutritional and endocrine  
diseases; musculoskeletal conditions;  
obstetric and gynecological conditions;  
pediatric disorders; and, vision and  
hearing disorders). Selection of  
suggested topics will be made on the  
basis of the qualifications of  
nominations as outlined above (*see*  
basic topic nomination requirements).

Dated: July 26, 2010.

**Carolyn M. Clancy,**

Director.

[FR Doc. 2010-19117 Filed 8-4-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-90-M