



BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

USPSTF Breast Cancer Screening Recommendation Affects Non-Grandfathered Group Health Plans

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (*USPSTF*) recently published a [final recommendation statement](#) on screening for breast cancer following an in-depth review of the science on the benefits and harms of screening mammography. The Task Force issued a B recommendation for mammography screening for women aged 50 to 74 years, once every two years. USPSTF preventive services A and B recommendations are applicable to non-grandfathered group health plans, including multiemployer group health plans, under the [final preventive services regulations](#), and must be provided by the health plan without any cost-sharing from the participant or covered person.

Prior to this 2016 B recommendation statement, the USPSTF had issued a breast cancer screening B recommendation in 2009 that also called for mammography screening for women aged 50 to 74 years, once every two years, so the 2016 B recommendation does not change the scope of this preventive service that non-grandfathered plans must provide.

More information on the recommendation and why it was limited to women ages 50-74 was explained in the [USPSTF news release](#). In addition, the USPSTF also released some Frequently Asked Questions that can be found at: <http://screeningforbreastcancer.org/frequently-asked-questions>.

REMINDER OF EFFECTIVE DATE RULE: Coverage for all new or updated “A” or “B” recommendations and guidelines that go into effect after the passage of the Affordable Care Act (*ACA*) must be covered by non-grandfathered group health plans for the *first plan year beginning on or after the date that is one year after the new recommendation or guideline goes into effect*.

One year from the effective date of January 12, 2016 is January 12, 2017 and the first plan year after that for a calendar year plan would begin January 1, 2018. The required effective date for non-calendar year plans would be calculated in a similar manner.

These USPSTF A or B recommendations can be found online at:

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/uspstf-a-and-b-recommendations-by-date/>.

One can sign up for email updates regarding draft or new recommendations at:

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/email-updates>.

See *Benefit News Briefs 2015-50* for a more detailed look at the preventive services required to be provided by *non-grandfathered* plans under the *Affordable Care Act (ACA)*, including *preventive services* like these that have a rating of A or B in the current recommendations of the USPSTF.

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