



Affordable Care Act Preventive Health Provisions Sept. 19, 2012

On June 28, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was constitutional. All preventive health provisions in the ACA remain. The ACA puts a stronger focus on preventive care.

Private Health Plans

For new health policies beginning on or after Sept. 23, 2010, preventive services that have strong scientific evidence of their health benefits must be covered. Also, plans can no longer charge a patient a co-payment, co-insurance or deductible for these services when they are delivered by a network provider. Grandfathered health plans' (those in place on or before March 23, 2010) preventive provisions are determined by the plan design benefit.

- There are 16 newly covered preventive services for adults, such as immunizations, colorectal cancer screening for adults over 50, blood pressure, obesity, and Type 2 diabetes screening for certain adults.
- There are 22 newly covered preventive services for women, with eight of the 22 provisions effective Aug. 1, 2012. Those include reproductive health coverage.
- There are 27 newly covered preventive services for children, such as immunizations, hearing screening for newborns, and autism screenings for children at 18 and 24 months.
- For a more complete listing and explanation of provisions, go to www.healthcare.gov/prevention.

Medicare Preventive Services

As of January 1, 2011, many new preventive services are covered under Medicare if the services are provided from a physician or other health care provider who accepts Medicare assignment.

- Annual wellness visits are covered without cost sharing.
- Tobacco use cessation counseling is now considered a covered benefit. Co-insurance and deductible will apply if person has already been diagnosed with a tobacco related illness.
- An expanded list of health screenings are covered without Medicare Part B deductible or copayment if certain coverage criteria apply, such as cholesterol and cardiovascular screenings, diabetes screening, colorectal and prostate cancer screenings.
- For a complete list of preventive services, go to www.Medicare.gov.

As a result of the ACA, in 2011, more than 420,000 people with Medicare in Oklahoma received free preventive services – such as mammograms and colonoscopies – or a free annual wellness visit with their doctor. In the first six months of 2012, nearly 205,000 Oklahomans with Medicare received free preventive services.

The Oklahoma Hospital Association has prepared Fact Sheets on numerous topics related to the ACA of interest to hospitals. The Fact Sheets may be accessed at www.okoha.com/aca.