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Preventive Services - One Step Closer to Change

Under the Affordable Care Act, non-grandfathered plans are required to cover preventive services with no cost sharing. Preventive services are established by the US Preventive Services Task Force. As reported in many major news services, yesterday a panel that advises this task force, recommended that preventive services include a number of new services, including prescription contraceptives, breastfeeding equipment and domestic violence counseling.

Here is a link to one of the news stories: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/20/health/policy/20health.html

If the task force approves these recommendations, which appears likely, non-grandfathered health plans must provide these additional services at no cost beginning with plan years commencing one year after the date the recommendation is issued. This means that if the recommendation is issued this year, these new recommendations would apply to calendar year plans on January 1, 2013.