

Preventive Health Guidelines

GUIDE TO CLINICAL PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska has adopted the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services*. The guideline is evidence-based, relying on current scientific studies. For additional clinical considerations, please refer to the full text of the published recommendations available at the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force website](#).

Each of the preventive services included in the guideline is a service that the USPSTF recommends and has suggested that clinicians offer or provide in the practice setting. All services listed on the USPSTF website that have a grade of A or B means there is a moderate to high certainty that these services have a net benefit that is substantial or moderate.

All USPSTF services rated as A or B are covered in full in accordance with federal healthcare reform or are covered at a reduced out-of-pocket cost for members who are enrolled in grandfathered plans. Please verify benefits by checking our website or calling the Premera Customer Service number listed on the back of the patient's ID card.

Immunizations are part of USPSTF recommendations for Preventive Health Services. Premera recommends following the immunization schedule from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). You'll find the [Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule](#) on the CDC website.

Although the guidelines reflect national recommendations, they're not a substitute for the clinical judgment of practitioners advising and caring for individual patients. Premera reviews and updates the guidelines at least every two years.

Notes

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) grades its recommendations based on the strength of evidence and magnitude of net benefit (benefits minus harms).

Grade A: The USPSTF recommends the service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is substantial. *Suggestions for practice:* Offer or provide this service.

Grade B: The USPSTF recommends the service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is moderate or there is moderate certainty that the net benefit is moderate to substantial. *Suggestions for practice:* Offer or provide this service.

Grade C: The USPSTF recommends against routinely providing the service. There may be considerations that support providing the service in an individual patient. There is at least moderate certainty that the net benefit is small. *Suggestions for practice:* Offer or provide this service only if other considerations support the offering or providing the service in an individual patient.

Grade D: The USPSTF recommends against the service. There is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits. *Suggestions for practice:* Discourage the use of this service.

Grade I: The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of the service. Evidence is lacking, of poor quality, or conflicting, and the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined. *Suggestions for practice:* Read the clinical considerations section of USPSTF Recommendation Statement. If the service is offered, patients should understand the uncertainty about the balance of benefits and harms.