



NCAPIP
National Council of Asian
Pacific Islander Physicians

***ASIAN PACIFIC PHYSICIANS WELCOME NEW FEDERAL RULING
ON PREVENTIVE HEALTH COVERAGE***

Washington, D.C. --- The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) welcomes the federal government's new regulations requiring health insurance plans to offer new members a wide range of preventive health screening and services at no additional cost to the member. The new rule is one of many health services offered under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the health overhaul passed into law in March 2010. NCAPIP has advocated that access to affordable care, including preventive care, for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders is central to meaningful health reform.

"We are pleased that millions of Americans will now have access to preventive health services such as mammogram and colorectal cancer screening. Chronic diseases are often preventable or treatable if detected early. Sadly, too many Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders have not received those potential life saving services in part due to linguistic and cultural barriers and financial costs," stated Dr. Dexter Louie, chairman of NCAPIP. Under the new rule, persons who receive new health insurance coverage on or after September 23, 2010 can access a wide variety of preventive screening and services. Insurance plans cannot charge their members additional out of pocket charges such as co-pay or deductibles.

"Currently 17% of the AANHPIs do not have health insurance and many more are underinsured with limited coverage and high out-of-pocket costs. The unfortunate result is many AANHPIs are less likely to receive preventive health services and often forced to delay seeking medical treatment. Under the ACA, small business and other uninsured will now have affordable coverage options. This preventive service requirement will enable the newly insured consumers to take the first major step to improved health and well-being," added Dr. Ho Luong Tran, NCAPIP President and CEO. Various studies have found AANHPIs encounter preventive care disparities. For instance, 42% of AANHPIs have received colorectal cancer screening compared to 59% of the white population. Despite scientific and research advancement to combat cancer, it remains the number one cause of death among AANHPIs as it is second for whites.

"As preventive health screening and services are proven to benefit the individual's health, it is imperative that our community members know about this latest policy to ensure more affordable and easier access. NCAPIP will work with our physician members and the community to increase awareness and encourage access," concluded NCAPIP external affairs consultant Yvonne Lee.

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NCAPIP is a membership organization dedicated to the advancement of AANHPI health equity through policy advocacy and public engagement.