



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Service Administration

Women's Preventive Services Guidelines

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Applicable as of December 29, 2017, HRSA updated the HRSA-supported Women's Preventive Services Guidelines for purposes of health insurance coverage for preventive services that address health needs specific to women based on clinical recommendations from the Women's Preventive Services Initiative. This 2017 update adds two additional services - Screening for Diabetes Mellitus after Pregnancy and Screening for Urinary Incontinence – to the nine preventive services included in the 2016 update to the HRSA-supported Women's Preventive Services Guidelines. The nine services included in the 2016 update are as follows: Breast Cancer Screening for Average Risk Women, Breastfeeding Services and Supplies, Screening for Cervical Cancer, Contraception, Screening for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus, Screening for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection, Screening for Interpersonal and Domestic Violence, Counseling for Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Well-Woman Preventive Visits. This notice serves as an announcement of the decision to update the

guidelines as listed below. Please see <https://www.hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines/index.html> for additional information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly C. Sherman , Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA at phone: (301) 443-0543; email: wellwomancare@hrsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The complete set of updated 2017 HRSA-supported Women’s Preventive Services Guidelines includes those that were accepted by the Acting HRSA Administrator on December 20, 2016, as well as two new services, Screening for Diabetes Mellitus After Pregnancy and Screening for Urinary Incontinence. For a complete listing and detailed information about the December 20, 2016, updates, please see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/27/2016-31129/updating-the-hrsa-supported-womens-preventive-services-guidelines>. In addition, the December 20, 2016, updates, including information related to coverage of contraceptive services and exemption for objecting organizations from requirements related to the provision of contraceptive services, can be found at <https://www.hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines-2016/index.html>. Information regarding the two new services that were accepted by the HRSA Administrator on December 29, 2017, is set out below:

1. Screening for Diabetes Mellitus After Pregnancy

The Women’s Preventive Services Initiative recommends women with a history of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) who are not currently pregnant and who have not previously been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus should be screened for diabetes mellitus. Initial testing

should ideally occur within the first year postpartum and can be conducted as early as 4–6 weeks postpartum.

Women with a negative initial postpartum screening test result should be rescreened at least every 3 years for a minimum of 10 years after pregnancy. For women with a positive postpartum screening test result, testing to confirm the diagnosis of diabetes is indicated regardless of the initial test (e.g., oral glucose tolerance test, fasting plasma glucose, or hemoglobin A1c). Repeat testing is indicated in women who were screened with hemoglobin A1c in the first six months postpartum regardless of the result (see Implementation Considerations below).

2. Screening for Urinary Incontinence

The Women’s Preventive Services Initiative recommends screening women for urinary incontinence annually. Screening should ideally assess whether women experience urinary incontinence and whether it impacts their activities and quality of life. The Women’s Preventive Services Initiative recommends referring women for further evaluation and treatment if indicated.

HRSA-supported Women's Preventive Services Guidelines

The HRSA-supported Women's Preventive Services Guidelines were originally established in 2011 based on recommendations from an HHS commissioned study by the Institute of Medicine, now known as the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Since then, there have been advancements in science and gaps identified in the existing guidelines, including a greater emphasis on practice-based clinical considerations. To address these, HRSA awarded a 5-year

cooperative agreement in March 2016 to convene a coalition of clinician, academic and consumer-focused health professional organizations and conduct a scientifically rigorous review to develop recommendations for updated Women's Preventive Services Guidelines in accordance with the model created by the NAM *Clinical Practice Guidelines We Can Trust*. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists was awarded the cooperative agreement and formed an expert panel called the Women's Preventive Services Initiative.

Under section 2713 of the Public Health Service Act, non-grandfathered group health plans and issuers of non-grandfathered group and individual health insurance coverage are required to cover specified preventive services without a copayment, coinsurance, deductible, or other cost sharing, including preventive care and screenings for women as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA for this purpose. Non-grandfathered group health plans and health insurance issuers offering non-grandfathered group or individual coverage (generally, plans or policies created or sold after March 23, 2010, or older plans or policies that have been changed in certain ways since that date) are required to provide coverage without cost sharing for preventive services listed in the updated HRSA-supported guidelines (which include the nine preventive services set out in the 2016 update, as well as the two services added in this update) beginning with the first plan year (in the individual market, policy year) that begins on or after December 29, 2018.

DATED: February 20, 2018

George Sigounas,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2018-03840 Filed: 2/26/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 2/27/2018]