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The US Preventive Service Task Force & The Guide to Clinical Preventive Services

18/20 October 2010
University of Kentucky

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The Task Force on Community Preventive Services

The Task Force is an independent, nonfederal, volunteer body of experts in public health and prevention research, practice and policy, appointed by the CDC Director to:

• Prioritize topics for systematic review.
• Oversee systematic reviews done for the Community Guide.
• Develop evidence-based recommendations on the basis of the systematic review results.
• Identify areas in need of further research.
Community Guide

The CG has assessed the effectiveness of more than 210 public health interventions in 18 topic areas and settings designed to:

- Promote healthy behaviors/reduce unhealthy behaviors
- Reduce specific diseases, injuries, or impairments.
- Promote healthy behaviors in community settings, e.g. schools or worksites
Community Guide

- The CG complements the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services (Clinical Guide), developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- Together they represent the gold standard for systematic reviews and recommendations across the prevention spectrum of clinical practice and public health.
How does the Community Guide identify evidence-based interventions?

By conducting systematic reviews of research studies that tell us:

- What interventions have worked
- How to select interventions that work
- If an intervention has worked in multiple populations or settings
- Benefits or harms associated with an intervention
How does the Community Guide identify evidence-based recommendations?

✿ The systematic review team informs the Task Force about all evidence gathered in the review process.

✿ The Task Force carefully considers this evidence, along with input from review collaborators and Liaisons.

✿ The Task Force develops recommendations based on the evidence.
The Community Guide Systematic Review Process

1. Convene a review team
2. Develop a conceptual framework
3. Develop a prioritized list of interventions
4. Develop and refine research questions
5. Search for evidence
6. Abstract and critically evaluate available studies and Summarize evidence
7. Present to Task Force for discussion
8. Disseminate findings and Task Force recommendations
Categories of Task Force Findings & Recommendations

**Recommended:**
Strong or sufficient evidence that the intervention is effective.

**Recommended Against:**
Strong or sufficient evidence that the intervention is harmful or not effective.

**Insufficient Evidence:**
The available studies do not provide sufficient evidence to determine if the intervention is, or is not, effective. More research is necessary before a recommendation can be made.
Some Illustrations Using Cancer Screening

Client Oriented

- Reminder
- Small Media
- Mass Media
- Group Education
- One-on-One Education
Some Illustrations Using Cancer Screening

Practitioner Oriented

- Assessment and Feedback
- Reminders and Recall
- Incentives
Client Reminders for Cancer Screening: Recommendations & Findings

The Task Force recommends interventions that use client reminders based on evidence of their effectiveness in increasing:

- Breast cancer screening by mammography (strong evidence)
- Cervical cancer screening by Pap test (strong evidence)
- Colorectal cancer screening by fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) (sufficient evidence)
The Task Force recommends interventions that use small media based on evidence of their effectiveness in increasing:

- Breast cancer screening by mammography (strong evidence)
- Cervical cancer screening by Pap test (strong evidence)
- Colorectal cancer screening by fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) (strong evidence)
For more information contact:

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Questions?