

Affordable Care Act Mandated Preventive Services

What preventative services are covered under ACA Legislation?

The plan covers all preventative services as mandated by the Affordable Care Act. These services are covered in full without a deductible or coinsurance when received from any HealthLink PPO Provider. The US Preventative Task Force (USPSTF) has recommended that all preventative services with an "A" or "B" rating be covered in full. More detailed information about the criteria necessary for these services to qualify as preventative can be found here:

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Home/GetFileByID/989>.

Attached is a list of ACA mandated preventative services covered at 100%. We recommend that you print and keep a copy of this list to discuss with your doctor at appointments if you have personal specific questions as to what is covered prior to having services completed.

Definitions of grades and quality of evidence ratings:

A — Strongly Recommended: The USPSTF strongly recommends that clinicians provide [the service] to eligible patients. The USPSTF found good evidence that [the service] improves important health outcomes and concludes that benefits substantially outweigh harms.

B — Recommended: The USPSTF recommends that clinicians provide [the service] to eligible patients. The USPSTF found at least fair evidence that [the service] improves important health outcomes and concludes that benefits outweigh harms.

USPSTF A and B Recommendations

Topic	Description	Grade	Release Date of Current Recommendation
Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening: men	The USPSTF recommends one-time screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm by ultrasonography in men ages 65 to 75 years who have ever smoked.	B	June 2014*
Alcohol misuse: screening and counseling	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen adults age 18 years or older for alcohol misuse and provide persons engaged in risky or hazardous drinking with brief behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse.	B	May 2013*
Anemia screening: pregnant women	The USPSTF recommends routine screening for iron deficiency anemia in asymptomatic pregnant women.	B	May 2006
Aspirin to prevent cardiovascular disease: men	The USPSTF recommends the use of aspirin for men ages 45 to 79 years when the potential benefit due to a reduction in myocardial infarctions outweighs the potential harm due to an increase in gastrointestinal hemorrhage.	A	March 2009
Aspirin to prevent cardiovascular disease: women	The USPSTF recommends the use of aspirin for women ages 55 to 79 years when the potential benefit of a reduction in ischemic strokes outweighs the potential harm of an increase in gastrointestinal hemorrhage.	A	March 2009
Bacteriuria screening: pregnant women	The USPSTF recommends screening for asymptomatic bacteriuria with urine culture in pregnant women at 12 to 16 weeks' gestation or at the first prenatal visit, if later.	A	July 2008
Blood pressure screening in adults	The USPSTF recommends screening for high blood pressure in adults age 18 years and older.	A	December 2007
BRCA risk assessment and genetic counseling/testing	The USPSTF recommends that primary care providers screen women who have family members with breast, ovarian, tubal, or peritoneal cancer with one of several screening tools designed to identify a family history that may be associated with an increased risk for potentially harmful mutations in breast cancer susceptibility genes (<i>BRCA1</i> or <i>BRCA2</i>). Women with positive screening results should receive genetic counseling and, if indicated after counseling, BRCA testing.	B	December 2013*
Breast cancer preventive medications	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians engage in shared, informed decisionmaking with women who are at increased risk for breast cancer about medications to reduce their risk. For women who are at increased risk for breast cancer and at low risk for adverse medication effects, clinicians should offer to prescribe risk-reducing medications, such as tamoxifen or raloxifene.	B	September 2013*
Breast cancer screening	The USPSTF recommends screening mammography for women, with or without clinical breast examination, every 1 to 2 years for women age 40 years and older.	B	September 2002†
Breastfeeding counseling	The USPSTF recommends interventions during pregnancy and after birth to promote and support breastfeeding.	B	October 2008
Cervical cancer screening	The USPSTF recommends screening for cervical cancer in women ages 21 to 65 years with cytology (Pap smear) every 3 years or, for women ages 30 to 65 years who want to lengthen the screening interval, screening with a combination of cytology and human papillomavirus (HPV) testing every 5 years.	A	March 2012*

Chlamydia screening: women	The USPSTF recommends screening for chlamydia in sexually active women age 24 years or younger and in older women who are at increased risk for infection.	B	September 2014*
Cholesterol abnormalities screening: men 35 and older	The USPSTF strongly recommends screening men age 35 years and older for lipid disorders.	A	June 2008
Cholesterol abnormalities screening: men younger than 35	The USPSTF recommends screening men ages 20 to 35 years for lipid disorders if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease.	B	June 2008
Cholesterol abnormalities screening: women 45 and older	The USPSTF strongly recommends screening women age 45 years and older for lipid disorders if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease.	A	June 2008
Cholesterol abnormalities screening: women younger than 45	The USPSTF recommends screening women ages 20 to 45 years for lipid disorders if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease.	B	June 2008
Colorectal cancer screening	The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer using fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy in adults beginning at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years. The risks and benefits of these screening methods vary.	A	October 2008
Dental caries prevention: infants and children up to age 5 years	The USPSTF recommends the application of fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption in primary care practices. The USPSTF recommends primary care clinicians prescribe oral fluoride supplementation starting at age 6 months for children whose water supply is fluoride deficient.	B	May 2014*
Depression screening: adolescents	The USPSTF recommends screening adolescents (ages 12-18 years) for major depressive disorder when systems are in place to ensure accurate diagnosis, psychotherapy (cognitive-behavioral or interpersonal), and follow-up.	B	March 2009
Depression screening: adults	The USPSTF recommends screening adults for depression when staff-assisted depression care supports are in place to assure accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and follow-up.	B	December 2009
Diabetes screening	The USPSTF recommends screening for type 2 diabetes in asymptomatic adults with sustained blood pressure (either treated or untreated) greater than 135/80 mm Hg.	B	June 2008
Falls prevention in older adults: exercise or physical therapy	The USPSTF recommends exercise or physical therapy to prevent falls in community-dwelling adults age 65 years and older who are at increased risk for falls.	B	May 2012
Falls prevention in older adults: vitamin D	The USPSTF recommends vitamin D supplementation to prevent falls in community-dwelling adults age 65 years and older who are at increased risk for falls.	B	May 2012
Folic acid supplementation	The USPSTF recommends that all women planning or capable of pregnancy take a daily supplement containing 0.4 to 0.8 mg (400 to 800 µg) of folic acid.	A	May 2009
Gestational diabetes mellitus screening	The USPSTF recommends screening for gestational diabetes mellitus in asymptomatic pregnant women after 24 weeks of gestation.	B	January 2014
Gonorrhea prophylactic medication: newborns	The USPSTF recommends prophylactic ocular topical medication for all newborns for the prevention of gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum.	A	July 2011*
Gonorrhea screening: women	The USPSTF recommends screening for gonorrhea in sexually active women age 24 years or younger and in older women who are at increased risk for infection.	B	September 2014*
Healthy diet and physical	The USPSTF recommends offering or referring	B	August 2014*

activity counseling to prevent cardiovascular disease: adults with cardiovascular risk factors	adults who are overweight or obese and have additional cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors to intensive behavioral counseling interventions to promote a healthful diet and physical activity for CVD prevention.		
Hearing loss screening: newborns	The USPSTF recommends screening for hearing loss in all newborn infants.	B	July 2008
Hemoglobinopathies screening: newborns	The USPSTF recommends screening for sickle cell disease in newborns.	A	September 2007
Hepatitis B screening: nonpregnant adolescents and adults	The USPSTF recommends screening for hepatitis B virus infection in persons at high risk for infection.	B	May 2014
Hepatitis B screening: pregnant women	The USPSTF strongly recommends screening for hepatitis B virus infection in pregnant women at their first prenatal visit.	A	June 2009
Hepatitis C virus infection screening: adults	The USPSTF recommends screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in persons at high risk for infection. The USPSTF also recommends offering one-time screening for HCV infection to adults born between 1945 and 1965.	B	June 2013
HIV screening: nonpregnant adolescents and adults	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen for HIV infection in adolescents and adults ages 15 to 65 years. Younger adolescents and older adults who are at increased risk should also be screened.	A	April 2013*
HIV screening: pregnant women	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen all pregnant women for HIV, including those who present in labor who are untested and whose HIV status is unknown.	A	April 2013*
Hypothyroidism screening: newborns	The USPSTF recommends screening for congenital hypothyroidism in newborns.	A	March 2008
Intimate partner violence screening: women of childbearing age	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen women of childbearing age for intimate partner violence, such as domestic violence, and provide or refer women who screen positive to intervention services. This recommendation applies to women who do not have signs or symptoms of abuse.	B	January 2013
Iron supplementation in children	The USPSTF recommends routine iron supplementation for asymptomatic children ages 6 to 12 months who are at increased risk for iron deficiency anemia.	B	May 2006
Lung cancer screening	The USPSTF recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography in adults ages 55 to 80 years who have a 30 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years or develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.	B	December 2013
Obesity screening and counseling: adults	The USPSTF recommends screening all adults for obesity. Clinicians should offer or refer patients with a body mass index of 30 kg/m ² or higher to intensive, multicomponent behavioral interventions.	B	June 2012*
Obesity screening and counseling: children	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen children age 6 years and older for obesity and offer them or refer them to comprehensive, intensive behavioral interventions to promote improvement in weight status.	B	January 2010
Osteoporosis screening: women	The USPSTF recommends screening for osteoporosis in women age 65 years and older and in younger women whose fracture risk is equal to or greater than that of a 65-year-old white woman who has no additional risk factors.	B	January 2012*
Phenylketonuria screening:	The USPSTF recommends screening for	B	March 2008

newborns	phenylketonuria in newborns.		
Preeclampsia prevention: aspirin	The USPSTF recommends the use of low-dose aspirin (81 mg/d) as preventive medication after 12 weeks of gestation in women who are at high risk for preeclampsia.	B	September 2014
Rh incompatibility screening: first pregnancy visit	The USPSTF strongly recommends Rh (D) blood typing and antibody testing for all pregnant women during their first visit for pregnancy-related care.	A	February 2004
Rh incompatibility screening: 24–28 weeks' gestation	The USPSTF recommends repeated Rh (D) antibody testing for all unsensitized Rh (D)-negative women at 24 to 28 weeks' gestation, unless the biological father is known to be Rh (D)-negative.	B	February 2004
Sexually transmitted infections counseling	The USPSTF recommends intensive behavioral counseling for all sexually active adolescents and for adults who are at increased risk for sexually transmitted infections.	B	September 2014*
Skin cancer behavioral counseling	The USPSTF recommends counseling children, adolescents, and young adults ages 10 to 24 years who have fair skin about minimizing their exposure to ultraviolet radiation to reduce risk for skin cancer.	B	May 2012
Tobacco use counseling and interventions: nonpregnant adults	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians ask all adults about tobacco use and provide tobacco cessation interventions for those who use tobacco products.	A	April 2009
Tobacco use counseling: pregnant women	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians ask all pregnant women about tobacco use and provide augmented, pregnancy-tailored counseling to those who smoke.	A	April 2009
Tobacco use interventions: children and adolescents	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians provide interventions, including education or brief counseling, to prevent initiation of tobacco use in school-aged children and adolescents.	B	August 2013
Syphilis screening: nonpregnant persons	The USPSTF strongly recommends that clinicians screen persons at increased risk for syphilis infection.	A	July 2004
Syphilis screening: pregnant women	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen all pregnant women for syphilis infection.	A	May 2009
Visual acuity screening in children	The USPSTF recommends vision screening for all children at least once between the ages of 3 and 5 years, to detect the presence of amblyopia or its risk factors.	B	January 2011*

†The Department of Health and Human Services, in implementing the Affordable Care Act under the standard it sets out in revised Section 2713(a)(5) of the Public Health Service Act, utilizes the 2002 recommendation on breast cancer screening of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. To see the USPSTF 2009 recommendation on breast cancer screening, go to <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Topic/recommendation-summary/breast-cancer-screening>.

*Previous recommendation was an "A" or "B."