

Selected Prevention Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) ushers in a new era of health care in the United States, placing a greater emphasis on health promotion and prevention initiatives. Embedded within the PPACA are evidence-based provisions that address prevention, health promotion, and wellness. This factsheet provides a partial listing, and is intended to highlight some of the prevention provisions that may be of great interest to Taft-Hartley Funds.

For individuals

- *Coverage of tobacco-cessation services for pregnant women in Medicaid (§4107)*: Requires states to provide tobacco cessation services, including counseling and pharmacotherapy, without cost-sharing, to pregnant women receiving Medicaid.^{1, 2}
- *Preventive health services (§2713)*: Requires new group health plans and private health insurance plans to cover preventive services which have been graded 'A' or 'B' by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, without cost-sharing.¹

For workplaces

- *Employer-based wellness programs (§4303)*: Mandates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide employers with programmatic support, including technical assistance, consultation and other tools for evaluating wellness programs.^{1, 2}
- *Grants for small businesses to provide comprehensive workplace wellness programs (§10408)*: Commits \$200 million in grant monies from 2011 to 2015 for establishing worksite-based wellness programs for small businesses. To be eligible, employers: (1) Must have less than 100 employees who work at least 25 hours per week; (2) Must not have a wellness program in place at the time of their application; and (3) Must use the funds to provide a comprehensive wellness program.^{3, 4}
- *Reasonable break time for nursing mothers (§4207)*: Amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 by requiring employers with at least 50 employees to provide nursing mothers with reasonable break time and suitable facilities (not including bathrooms).^{1, 5} This provision also applies to employers with fewer than 50 employees unless compliance would impose an undue hardship.

National

- *National diabetes prevention program (§10501)*: Establishes a national program to reduce preventable diabetes among at-risk adult populations.¹
- *Nutrition labeling of standard menu items at chain restaurants (§4205)*: Establishes nutrition labeling requirements for standard menu items served in chains of 20 or more restaurants, similar retail food establishments (e.g., grocery store delis) and vending machines, including disclosures of total calories, calories from fat, and other nutrient information.¹
- *Oral health (§4102)*: Creates a 5-year national educational campaign on oral healthcare education and prevention.⁴ Establishes demonstration grants on dental caries disease management, education and surveillance.¹

References

- ¹ Koh HK, Sebelius KG. Promotion prevention through the Affordable Care Act. *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363:1296-9.
- ² Trust for America's Health. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—Selected prevention provisions 11/19. Available at: <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/SenatePreventionSummary.pdf>
- ³ O'Donnell M. Editor's notes. *Am J of Health Promot.* 2010;25(1):iv-v.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Affordable Care Act Amendments to Title Four. HR 3590 EAS/PP. Available at: http://www.healthcare.gov/center/authorities/title_iv_amendments.pdf
- ⁵ Chapman LS. Understanding the new Health Care Reform Law: Part I. *Am J of Health Promot.* Jul/Aug2010;24(6):Special section p1.

To learn more about smoking cessation, visit www.workshifts.org.