



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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Conflict of Interest and the US Preventive Services Task Force

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IOM Committee on Conflict of Interest in Medical
Research, Education and Practice

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US Preventive Services Task Force

- n Standing panel of 16 non-Federal experts in prevention and primary care
 - Serve 4 + year terms, vote on up to 15 topics per year
 - Small subgroup of 3 or 4 members take lead for each topic

US Preventive Services Task Force

- n** Procedural Stages at which COI considered
 - Selection of Task Force members
 - Topic planning
 - Voting on recommendations
 - At time of publication of recommendation

USPSTF: Selection of members

- n Nominations solicited from
 - individuals, institutions, medical primary and specialty care organizations, in response to a Federal Register notice
- n Selections based on methodologic and topical expertise, primary care experience, clinical field
- n Funding sources and potential conflicts reviewed in detail at penultimate stage of selection

USPSTF: Topic Planning and Vote

- n Quarterly prompt to members to disclose about
 - Topics voted but not yet published
 - Topics whose reviews are underway
 - Planned and potential upcoming topics

USPSTF: Topic Planning and Vote (cont.)

- n Asked to disclose
 - Significant financial interests
 - Business and professional interests
 - n Compensated or not
 - Intellectual Interests

USPSTF: Topic Planning and Vote (cont.)

- n Review of disclosures by AHRQ staff and Task Force Chair and Co-Chair to determine appropriate action
 - **A No action**
 - **B Information disclosure to Task Force only**
 - n *Member may participate as topic lead, and may discuss and vote on the topic*
 - **C Recusal from participation as topic lead and disclosure to Task Force**
 - **D Recusal from all participation and disclosure to Task Force**

USPSTF Publication

- n Members of USPSTF , as authors of published recommendation statements, follow journal policy with regard to disclosures at time of publication
 - Annals of Internal Medicine
 - Pediatrics
 - Annals of Family Medicine

Reflections

- n Ways in which USPSTF may differ
 - Need (or not) for experts, re: Prevention
 - Review of disclosures has input from AHRQ
 - Formal role of EPCs
 - External peer review of evidence reports
 - Invite review and comment on recommendations from Federal and Primary Care partner organizations



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