

**USPSTF**  
**US Preventive Services Taskforce**

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**Health Care Screening is**

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**Health Care Screening is**  
**Good**

**Health Care Screening is**  
**Always Good**

**Health Care Screening is**  
**A Real LifeSaver**

**Health Care Screening is**  
**Harmful**

**USPSTF**

- The mission of the USPSTF is to evaluate the benefits of individual services based on age, gender, and risk factors for disease; make recommendations about which preventive services should be incorporated routinely into primary medical care and for which populations; and identify a research agenda for clinical preventive care. Recommendations issued by the USPSTF are intended for use in the primary care setting.

**What is screening?**

- Screening vs. Case finding vs. Diagnostic testing?
- Screening – Looking for a specific disease that is in a pre-symptomatic state.
  - “Screening” is often used when referring to populations or large groups of people
    - Can it be used when referring to one person?

## USPSTF Grades

Grade	Definition	Suggestions for Practice
<b>A</b>	The USPSTF recommends this service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is substantial.	Offer or provide this service.
<b>B</b>	The USPSTF recommends this service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is moderate or there is moderate certainty that the net benefit is moderate to substantial.	Offer or provide this service.
<b>C</b>	The USPSTF recommends selectively offering or providing this service to individual patients based on judgement and patient preferences. There is at least moderate certainty that the benefit is small.	Offer or provide this service for select patients.
<b>D</b>	The USPSTF recommends against this service. There is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net benefit or that harms outweigh benefits.	Discourage the use of this service.
<b>I</b>	The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of the service. Evidence is lacking, poor quality, or conflicting.	If offered, patients should understand uncertainties

## The United States Preventive Services Task Force



AHRQ ePSS