

**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



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