PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Docket: HHS-OS-2010-0018
Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services; etc.

Comment On: HHS-OS-2010-0018-0001
Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services; etc.

Document: HHS-OS-2010-0018-DRAFT-0027
Comment on FR Doc # 2010-17242

Submitter Information

Name: Julie Connolly
Organization: Virginia Chiropractic Association

General Comment

I believe that greater guidance to insurers is needed regarding appropriate provider types for the covered preventive services. Without such guidance insurers may develop policies that are restrictive which would ultimately limit the patient’s ability to access preventive services. Additionally, I have concerns that limiting the waiver for cost-sharing to in-network providers may encourage insurers to limit their provider network thus limiting access to providers able to perform needed preventive services. I urge HHS to allow both in and out of network providers to perform the covered preventive services at least until 2014 when PPACA Section 2706 takes effect. Section 2706 disallows insurers from discriminating against providers with regard to participation. Once this provision is implemented, concerns regarding access to providers will be eliminated. Ultimately, greater direction to insurers is needed in the regulations to ensure that greater access to preventive services is a reality for patients.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Chiropractic Association, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide comments on these regulations.

Julie K Connolly
Executive Director
Virginia Chiropractic Association
vcacentral@hughes.net