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Requirement for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers to Provide Coverage of Preventive Services under the PatientProtection and Affordable Care Act

Comment On: IRS-2010-0017-0038
Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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General Comment

I believe that all health insurance issuers should assist with contraceptives. I understand that pregnancy is not a disease and contraceptives are against many religions but in the health care field (regardless of religion) one of the most important lessons taught in school is NOT to judge the patients. If a patient presents himself with genital herpes he is treated for the herpes and sent home with medication that will keep the herpes from coming back (while on the medication) and prevent him from spreading it to anyone else. How did he aquire those herpes? Probably the same way that a woman would get pregnant. Could both issues have been avoided by being abstinent? Yes, they could have. But as health care professionals, it is not our place to judge. Is it our place to educate young people about the decisions they face and aide them in making better decisions? Absolutely. But if a patient does not have the same values and beliefs as we do, we cannot treat them any differently. My hospital has no problem admitting patients who are coming down off of heroin/cocaine or even detoxing from alcohol even if the patient insists that after discharge he will go right back to the same lifestyle as before. My hospital also has no problem handing out morphine or dilaudid for known narcotic abusers. So abusing drugs is alright but oral contraceptives are out of the question..? Where is the logic? A lot of women take contraceptives for reasons other than birth control. I know women who go 6 months without a normal menses without contraceptive. I also know women who have a menses every 3 weeks without contraceptive. I know women who have cramping and bleeding to the extent that they are incapacitated for days. Oral contraceptives completely correct these issues and most religious companies refuse to acknowledge the benefits of these drugs. It is a very sad thing to watch these companies to be so judgemental and hypocritical at the same time.