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Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Comment On: EBSA-2010-0018-0002

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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Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

Submitter Information

General Comment

Dear Department of HHS,

Please reconsider your proposed list of mandatory services for all group health plans. While some of the proposed services are positive and good, others are cause for concern for Catholics and Catholic institutions. Specifically, the coverage for sterilizations and contraceptives - especially contraceptives that rely on early abortions - will put Catholics in an intolerable moral position since our faith looks on these procedures and services as antithetical to life. The new Health Care laws will force our schools and charitable organizations to provide health care coverage and the amendment will force that coverage to include these objectionable services. The narrow exception for religious groups will not apply except to our churches and so our other organizations will be financially supporting what we consider immoral acts. Removing the services in question or broadening the religious exemptions would not lessen the importance or affect of the new health care laws but instead would allow all Catholic citizens to participate in good faith. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and please act fast to bring this situation to a favorable close for all parties worried about the effects of implementing this proposal.