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Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services; etc.

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General Comment

Comprehensive tobacco dependency treatment is desperately needed by one out of five Americans! The new coverage for preventive services is a great opportunity to decrease the morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco use. Unfortunately the interim final rules are too vague regarding coverage of treatment for tobacco dependence. Specifically, it is the recommendation of Loma Linda University School of Dentistry that the final regulations be amended to include all seven FDA-approved medications (five forms of Nicotine Replacement Therapies, and Bupropion/Zyban and Chantix/Varenecline) and all three forms of counseling outlined in the 2008 U.S. Public Health Service Guideline. Without this amendment, the most underserved and financially needy portion of our population will continue to be prisoners and slaves to tobacco addiction. Thank you for your consideration.
