

**From:** [Hippocratic Resource W A Krotoski MD](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** HHS "Preventive Health Service" Mandates  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 5:44:25 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam:

On August 1st, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued new mandates concerning preventive health services to be covered by insurance plans. These mandates require that all insurance plans provide coverage for all prescription contraceptives approved by the FDA, as well as abortifacients such as the "morning after" pill and "Ella" (a drug similar to RU-486 which, as an embryocide, can also induce an abortion some weeks into pregnancy).

There are a few exceptions to these mandates including those group health plans which were in effect before the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform) was enacted, and those offered by employers who are deemed by HHS to qualify as a "religious employer." However, the definition of "religious employer" is so narrow that its applicability negates most religious employers within the United States. A major religious body, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has voiced its strict opposition to and disappointment with this final, unethical Act of HHS, due to its failure to ensure respect for rights of conscience when developing such mandates. The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) has also strongly opposed this mandate.

Another key issue is that, from a medical point of view, these new coverage mandates involve drugs and procedures that are not, in the strict sense, health care. For example, hormonal contraceptives take a woman who is otherwise in a healthy, normal, hormonal balance, and hormonally force her into an abnormal, unhealthful state. This is clearly *not* in the realm of traditional, ethical medicine, whose first principle is "do no harm." Similarly, abortifacients cannot be considered health care, as their sole goal is the literal killing of an unequivocally human being, even if at an early stage of the development we all undergo from fertilization until natural death. These are absolute perversions of the ethical mandate of medicine, and are simply modern abominations, used for the sake of convenience or supposed social change.

As President of *The Hippocratic Resource*, an organization of life-respecting physicians, dentists, nurses, therapists, scientists and other health professionals, I wish to add my name to the growing list of organizations and health professionals that strongly object to this totally unwarranted and unethical abuse of government power, all the more abominable as it perverts human health into human manipulation.

Sincerely,

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