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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

As a family physician, I strongly believe that preventive health services are a crucial part of any rational health care system. They have been under-reimbursed ever since health insurance was invented. Encouraging the provision of preventive services by mandating that no co-pay be charged is a marvelous idea, and needs to be implemented.

Contraception is a crucial part of preventive medicine for women of child-bearing age. Health care institutions that have religious concerns about providing contraception should not be able to opt out of providing this service to patients, thereby denying women access to this important method for improving and maintaining their health. Religiously-based institutions should not be allowed to force women to abide by the institution's religious beliefs, rather than their own. That would be unconscionable, and should not be allowed.