



Public Health Institute Welcomes HHS Final Rule on Preventive Health Services Guidelines for Women

OAKLAND, CA (January 23, 2012) – The Public Health Institute (PHI) welcomes the final rule on preventive health services issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 20. This action by HHS will help ensure that women with health insurance will have access to preventive services recommended by the Institute of Medicine, including all forms of contraception approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In August 2011 PHI praised HHS for issuing an interim final rule on preventive health services that required new health insurance plans to cover women’s preventive services such as well-woman visits, HIV screening and counseling, screening for gestational diabetes, breastfeeding support, domestic violence screening and contraception without charging a co-payment, co-insurance or a deductible. A provision added to the final rule announced on January 20 gives nonprofit employers that do not currently provide contraceptive coverage in their insurance plan based on religious beliefs one more year – or until Aug. 1, 2013 – to comply with the new law.

By accepting evidence-based recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine, HHS is acting to ensure that a host of key preventive services will be more widely available for women, helping them to stay healthy, avoid or delay the onset of disease and lead productive lives. This represents an important step in implementing the Affordable Care Act, addressing health disparities, reducing health care costs and, ultimately, saving lives.

About the Public Health Institute

PHI, an independent nonprofit organization based in Oakland, California, is dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. PHI’s primary methods for achieving these goals include: sharing evidence developed through quality research and evaluation; providing training and technical assistance; and promoting successful prevention strategies to policymakers, communities and individuals.

PHI has a long history of advancing girls’, women’s and reproductive health – both in the U.S. and abroad. PHI signature programs in these areas include: the [Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development](#), the [California Adolescent Health Collaborative](#), the [Pro-Choice Alliance for Responsible Research](#), the [Coalition for Advancing Multipurpose Innovations](#), the [Adolescent Girls’ Advocacy and Leadership Initiative](#) and the [GoJoven Program](#) (Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health).

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