

September 26, 2016

Dear OCs OTC Working Group Member,

Earlier this month, the Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI) Advisory Panel and Multidisciplinary Steering Committee released draft recommendations for women's preventive health care services, including the HRSA-sponsored Women's Preventive Services Guidelines. Through a collaborative agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the WPSI is overseen by a coalition of professional organization representatives and consumer and patient advocates with expertise in women's health for the purpose of developing, reviewing, and updating recommendations for women's preventive health care services.

The current women's preventive health care guidelines require insurance coverage without cost sharing for the full range of FDA-approved methods, including OTC methods used by women, though insurers can require a prescription. We are excited that the [draft recommendation on Contraception and Contraceptive Counseling](#) also include **over-the-counter contraceptive methods without a prescription** as a covered preventive service! If put into place, this would mean that a future OTC OC, as well as other OTC contraceptive methods, would be covered without cost sharing by most private insurance plans and without needing to obtain a prescription first for that coverage to kick in.

The draft recommendations also include coverage of sterilization surgery for men and male condoms without cost sharing, which would overturn the current guidelines excluding these contraceptive services for men.

The call for public comment closes on **September 30, 2016**. Please help promote this public comment period, and **voice your support!**

If you are providing comments on behalf of an organization, include the organization's name and contact information. If you are commenting as an individual, submit identifying or contact information. Please do not include

personal health information in your comments. See the [public comment page](#) for instructions on leaving high-quality comments including the categories for types of comments and ethical guidelines.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

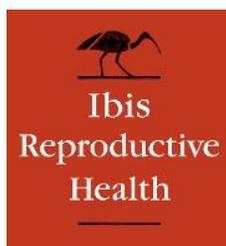


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About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives. The working group was established in 2004 to explore the potential of over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives to reduce disparities in reproductive health care access and outcomes, and to increase opportunities for women to access a safe, effective method of contraception, free of unnecessary control, as part of a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



www.ibisreproductivehealth.org

Contact us

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