

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommends Against Screening for COPD

Evidence shows no benefit for screening in people without symptoms

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 18, 2015 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) today published a draft recommendation statement on screening for chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, or COPD. The Task Force recommends against screening for chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder in asymptomatic adults. This is a **D recommendation**.

The Task Force is providing an opportunity for public comment on this draft recommendation statement and the companion draft evidence review until September 14, 2015. All comments will be considered as the Task Force develops its final recommendation and final evidence review.

COPD is a serious, chronic condition that affects a person's ability to breathe. It is the third leading cause of death in the United States.

The most common symptoms of COPD are difficulty breathing, chronic cough, phlegm production, and wheezing. Smoking is the main risk factor for COPD. More than 70 percent of people with current COPD are current or former smokers.

Grades in this recommendation:

D: Not recommended.

[Learn more here](#)

“The Task Force found that there is no evidence that screening for COPD in adults without symptoms results in improved health outcomes,” said Task Force member William Phillips, M.D., M.P.H. “The most important step you can take to prevent COPD is to avoid smoking. People who smoke should talk with their doctors about ways to quit.”

The Task Force's draft recommendation statement has been posted for public comment on the Task Force Web site at www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org. Comments can be submitted from August 18 to September 14, 2015 at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/us-preventive-services-task-force-opportunities-for-public-comment>.

The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that works to improve the health of all Americans by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications.

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