Clinician Summary of USPSTF Recommendation Screening for Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults

February 2020



What does the USPSTF recommend?

For asymptomatic, community-dwelling adults 65 years and older:

The USPSTF found that the evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for cognitive impairment in older adults. More research is needed.

To whom does this recommendation apply?

Community-dwelling adults 65 years and older without recognized signs or symptoms of cognitive impairment.

It does not apply to persons who are hospitalized or living in institutions such as nursing homes.



What's new?

This recommendation is consistent with the 2014 USPSTF statement.



How to implement this recommendation?

There is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against screening for cognitive impairment. Clinicians should remain alert to early signs or symptoms of cognitive impairment (eg, problems with memory or language) and evaluate as appropriate.



Where to read the full recommendation statement?

Visit the USPSTF website to read the full recommendation statement. This includes more details on the rationale of the recommendation, including benefits and harms; supporting evidence; and recommendations of others.



The USPSTF recognizes that clinical decisions involve more considerations than evidence alone. Clinicians should understand the evidence but individualize decision making to the specific patient or situation.