

## U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Issues New Recommendation on Screening for Chronic Kidney Disease

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 28, 2012 – The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) today released its final recommendation on screening for chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adults, finding that there is not enough evidence to determine the potential benefit and harms of screening all adults for CKD.

This recommendation is for adults who do not have symptoms of CKD and who have not been diagnosed with CKD. It is important to note that this recommendation also does not apply to people who have diabetes or high blood pressure. CKD is most common in people with diabetes and high blood pressure, and testing for chronic kidney disease is considered an ongoing part of care and treatment for people with these conditions.

About 11 percent of U.S. adults aged 20 or older have some degree of CKD, most of it in mild to moderate stages.

“While mild abnormalities in kidney function are very common in the United States, we know surprisingly little about whether screening adults with no signs or symptoms of chronic kidney disease will improve health outcomes,” said Task Force member Joy Melnikow, M.D., M.P.H. “We also need to learn more about how best to identify chronic kidney disease.”

In its recommendation statement, the Task Force also calls for additional research to fully evaluate the benefits and harms of screening.

“Clinicians and patients deserve better information on chronic kidney disease. We hope that our statement will lead to further research on how best to identify this condition, and whether screening will reduce future serious kidney disease,” explained Dr. Melnikow.

The Task Force’s recommendations have been published online in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, as well as on the Task Force Web site at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>. A fact sheet that explains the recommendation statement in plain language is also available.

The Task Force is an independent group 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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