

Memorandum

To: Debbie Curtis
From: Anne Hunt *AH*
Date: January 3, 1996
Subject: The Medicare Preventive Benefits Improvement Act

Attached is a preliminary estimate of the Medicare Preventive Benefits Improvement Act. For the purposes of this estimate, I assumed an effective date of February 1, 1996. As the table shows, the estimated cost of this proposal would be \$7.9 billion over seven years. This estimate is based on the following policies:

Screening Mammography: The proposal would provide Medicare coverage of annual mammograms for women over age 49 and would waive the deductible for screening mammograms.

Screening Pap Smear and Pelvic Exams: The bill would allow screening pap smears and pelvic exams every three years; these services would be provided annually to women who have, or who are at high risk of, cervical cancer. This provision would also waive the deductible for these procedures.

Colorectal Cancer Screening: The bill would cover the following colorectal cancer screening tests under Medicare: annual fecal-occult blood tests for individuals over age 49; screening flexible sigmoidoscopies every four years for beneficiaries over age 49; biennial screening colonoscopies for beneficiaries at high risk of colorectal cancer; and, if the Secretary deems appropriate, screening barium enemas.

Prostate Cancer Screening Tests: For beneficiaries over age 50, the proposal would cover annual digital rectal exams, prostate-specific antigen blood tests, and any other procedures that the Secretary deems appropriate after 1998.

Diabetes Screening Benefits: The bill would provide Medicare coverage of diabetes outpatient self-management training services rendered by a certified provider in an outpatient setting. According to the American Diabetes Association, these services generally consist of self-management skills training and dietary counseling. The proposal would also allow Medicare to cover diabetic blood-testing strips as durable medical equipment.

If you have any questions about this estimate, please give me a call at 6-9010.

Preliminary Cost Estimate for The Medicare Preventive Benefits Improvement Act

DRAFT

Provision	(By fiscal year, in millions of dollars)					2001	2002 7-yr Total
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000		
Screening Mammography	250	820	770	810	840	870	900 5060
Screening Pap Smear and Pelvic Exams	80	120	130	130	130	130	140 860
Colorectal Cancer Screening	110	170	180	160	70	40	50 760
Prostate Cancer Screening Tests	70	120	120	130	130	140	140 850
Diabetes Screening Benefits	270	160	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10 380
Net Costs from the Proposal	780	1190	1170	1220	1160	1170	1220 7910

DATE: January 3, 1996
ANALYST: Anne Hunt
CAVEATS: CBO December 1995 Baseline
 This estimate assumes an effective date of February 1, 1996
 This is a preliminary estimate and is subject to change.