



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare
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MAY 15 2012

Ana Fadich, MPH, CHES
Director, Programs and Outreach
Men's Health Network
PO Box 7597'1
Washington D.C. 2001

Dear Ms. Fadich:

Thank you for your letter regarding the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's recommendation on prostate cancer screening. I greatly appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns about the Task Force process and your recognition of the dedication and hard work of the members of that group. I have shared your concerns directly with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force leadership.

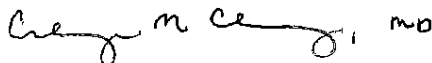
As you are aware, this Task Force is an independent panel of non-federal, volunteer experts whose focus is prevention. The Task Force recognizes the impact that each of its recommendations has on individual patients, primary care clinicians, and clinical practice overall. As such, it follows a rigorous process for gathering and reviewing published evidence, developing a recommendation, and engaging experts and stakeholders to review its work.

I have encouraged the recent efforts of the Task Force to increase the transparency of its work and to solicit public comment on all of its draft recommendations. The Task Force received thousands of comments from medical specialty groups, patient advocacy organizations and men and their families regarding the draft recommendation on screening for prostate cancer. Like you, many people expressed concern that the Task Force may lack sufficient scientific evidence on African-American men and other high risk groups. I have encouraged the Task Force to include a specific explanation of their decision in this area as they revise and finalize their recommendation in response to the public comments they have received.

I believe the most important lesson we must all draw from the work of this Task Force is that the men and families of our nation deserve better and more effective screening tests and treatments for prostate cancer. It is my hope that in the future when the medical evidence on screening for prostate cancer is reviewed, the Task Force will find evidence supporting new tests and safer treatments.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns about prostate cancer screenings. I greatly appreciate the work that you do to improve the health of American men and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carolyn M. Clancy, MD".

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD
Director