



# Effective Health Care Comparative Effectiveness of Health Screening Tools Nomination Summary Document

## Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The comparative effectiveness of health screening tools was found to be addressed by the work of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Guidance from these organizations can be found on their websites.
  - USPSTF: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/prevenix.htm>
  - CDC: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html>
- Given that the work of these organizations covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

## Topic Description

**Nominator:** Public payer

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator states that they are interested in the comparative effectiveness of different preventive health screening tools for early diagnosis of health and developmental concerns in children (particularly those under age 10 with a focus on children under age 6). The nominator is particularly interested in the evidentiary basis of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program and the Bright Futures Program, as well as other programs used outside the US. The nominator asks whether there are any screening components of the EPSDT and/or Bright Futures Programs that have higher value and more evidence for return on investment in desired outcomes. In addition, they are interested in knowing what the evidence is for each screening and diagnostic test and for which years.

- Key Questions from Nominator:**
1. What is the comparative effectiveness of different preventative health screening tools for early diagnosis of health and developmental concerns in children?
  2. Are there some screening components of EPSDT and/or Bright Futures for which there is higher value and more evidence for return on investment in desired outcomes?
  3. Are there harms associated with the required EPSDT or Bright Futures screening tests; for example, if they are done too frequently, does it hinder children from going to the doctor later on in life?
  4. Are there any risks that outweigh the benefits of required screening tests?

## Considerations

- The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) service is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21. EPSDT was defined by law as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA '89) legislation and includes periodic screening (including a comprehensive health and developmental history, an unclothed physical exam, appropriate immunizations, laboratory tests, and health education), vision, dental, and hearing services.
- Bright Futures is a national health care promotion and disease prevention initiative that uses a developmentally-based approach to promote and improve infant, child, and adolescent health within the context of family and community. The Bright Futures Initiative was launched in 1990 under the leadership of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Bright Futures has been supported by a diverse set of national organizations, multidisciplinary programs, and family and child care advocates.
- The EPSDT and Bright Futures Program cover a large range of different interventions that would be difficult to address in a single report in this area. The evidence for the effectiveness of many of these interventions has been addressed by other organizations, including the USPSTF and the CDC.