American Academy of Nursing

Call to Action: Put Prevention into Women’s Health Practice
Women’s Health Expert Panel

The Women’s Health Expert Panel is alerted to an urgent need for preventive services to improve women’s health and wellness across the lifespan. Overall, the U.S. has failed to meet most goals for women’s health as proposed by Health People 2010. Groundbreaking efforts and recommendations such as the ACA, the National Prevention Strategy, and a 2011 IOM Report on Women’s Preventive Services suggest a new system of services for women (and men) across the lifespan. Nurses are urged to support putting prevention into practice at all levels of health care. Start at the point of care and extend that to health policy. Here’s how to do it:

1. Articulate and endorse professional and inter-professional policy dialogues that set health goals and support strategies for clinical preventive services for women as:
   a. Established by the 2011 IOM Preventive Services Committee

3. Press adoption of ongoing evidence-based prevention guidelines that are gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate

4. Support or participate in efforts to address national health goals, as specified in the Institute of Medicine Women’s Preventive Services recommendations (2011) and the National Prevention Strategies report, in practice, education, and research

5. Improve clinical services for women by incorporating essential primary and secondary prevention competencies into primary care practice settings.

June, 2012

REFERENCES
