March 2013

Background: The USPTF creates recommendations on various topics of importance to the health of US citizens. Their recommendations are used by various parties, such as the national organizations for Family Practice, Primary Care, Internal Medicine to inform physicians and other health care providers and health policy makers about important preventive services for disease.

From a recent letter from the USPTF to the AAO:
"As you may know, the USPSTF is an independent group of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. Our mission is to improve the health of all Americans by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications. The USPSTF believes that the recommendation development process should be clear and transparent. We want to keep our stakeholders and the general public fully informed throughout the process. We also believe that our recommendations ultimately are improved when groups who care about and are knowledgeable about particular topics share their expertise with us.
To achieve these goals, we developed “Topic Groups for Stakeholders,” or TOPS. A TOPS group is formed for each topic on which the USPSTF is developing a recommendation statement."

Anne Coleman is the AAO Ophthalmology representative to the TOPS group.

Please review the USPTF Draft Recommendation here:
http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/draftrec.htm#irec

And the newly published comparative effectiveness review covering the treatment of glaucoma, based on the AHRQ-sponsored EPC review that was used by the USPTF here:
http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf13/glaucoma/glaucomaaart.htm#contents

The AAO and AGS submitted Joint Comments on the USPTF’s Draft Recommendation. Please see the Comments also posted here on the AGS Website.

---Cynthia Mattox, MD  Chair, Patient Care Committee