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# The US Preventive Service Taskforce and the guide to clinical preventive services.

F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD, *University of Kentucky*



Available at: [https://works.bepress.com/f\\_douglas\\_scutchfield/29/](https://works.bepress.com/f_douglas_scutchfield/29/)

# **The US Preventive Service Task Force & The Guide to Clinical Preventive Services**

**18/20 October 2010**  
University of Kentucky

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# The Task Force on Community Preventive Services

The Task Force is an independent, nonfederal, volunteer body of experts in public health and prevention research, practice and policy, appointed by the CDC Director to:

- Prioritize topics for systematic review .
- Oversee systematic reviews done for the Community Guide .
- Develop evidence-based recommendations on the basis of the systematic review results .
- Identify areas in need of further research

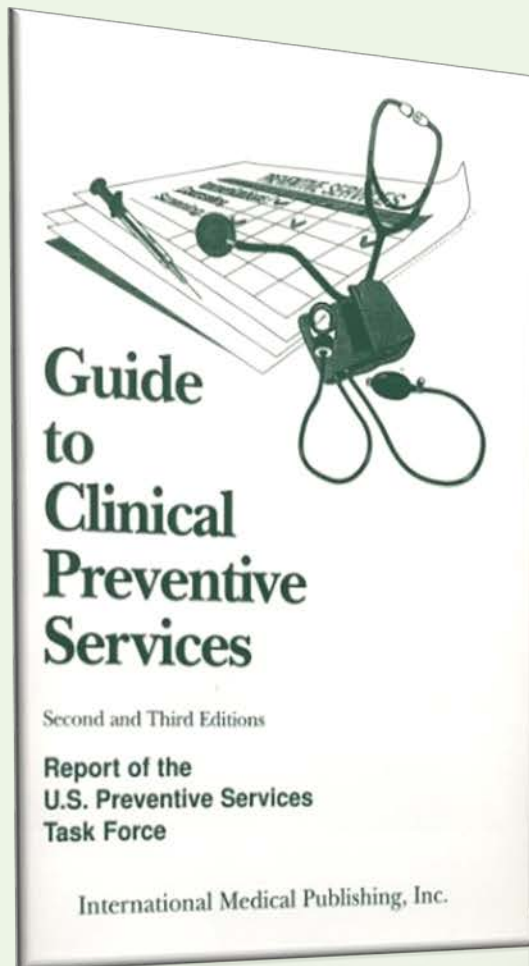
# Community Guide

The CG has assessed the effectiveness of more than 210 public health interventions in 18 topic areas and settings designed to:

- Promote healthy behaviors/reduce unhealthy behaviors
- Reduce specific diseases, injuries, or impairments .
- Promote healthy behaviors in community settings, e.g. schools or worksites

## Community Guide

- ✦ The CG complements the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services (Clinical Guide), developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- ✦ Together they represent the gold standard for systematic reviews and recommendations across the prevention spectrum of clinical practice and public health.



# How does the Community Guide identify evidence-based interventions?

By conducting systematic reviews of research studies that tell us:

- What interventions have worked
- How to select interventions that work
- If an intervention has worked in multiple populations or settings
- Benefits or harms associated with an intervention

## How does the Community Guide identify evidence-based recommendations?

- ✦ The systematic review team informs the Task Force about all evidence gathered in the review process.
- ✦ The Task Force carefully considers this evidence, along with input from review collaborators and Liaisons.
- ✦ The Task Force develops recommendations based on the evidence.

# The Community Guide Systematic Review Process

Convene a review team



Develop a conceptual framework



Develop a prioritized list of interventions



Develop and refine research questions



Search for evidence



Abstract and critically evaluate available studies and Summarize evidence



Present to Task Force for discussion



Disseminate findings and Task Force recommendations



# Categories of Task Force Findings & Recommendations

## **Recommended:**

Strong or sufficient evidence that the intervention is effective .

## **Recommended Against:**

Strong or sufficient evidence that the intervention is harmful or not effective .

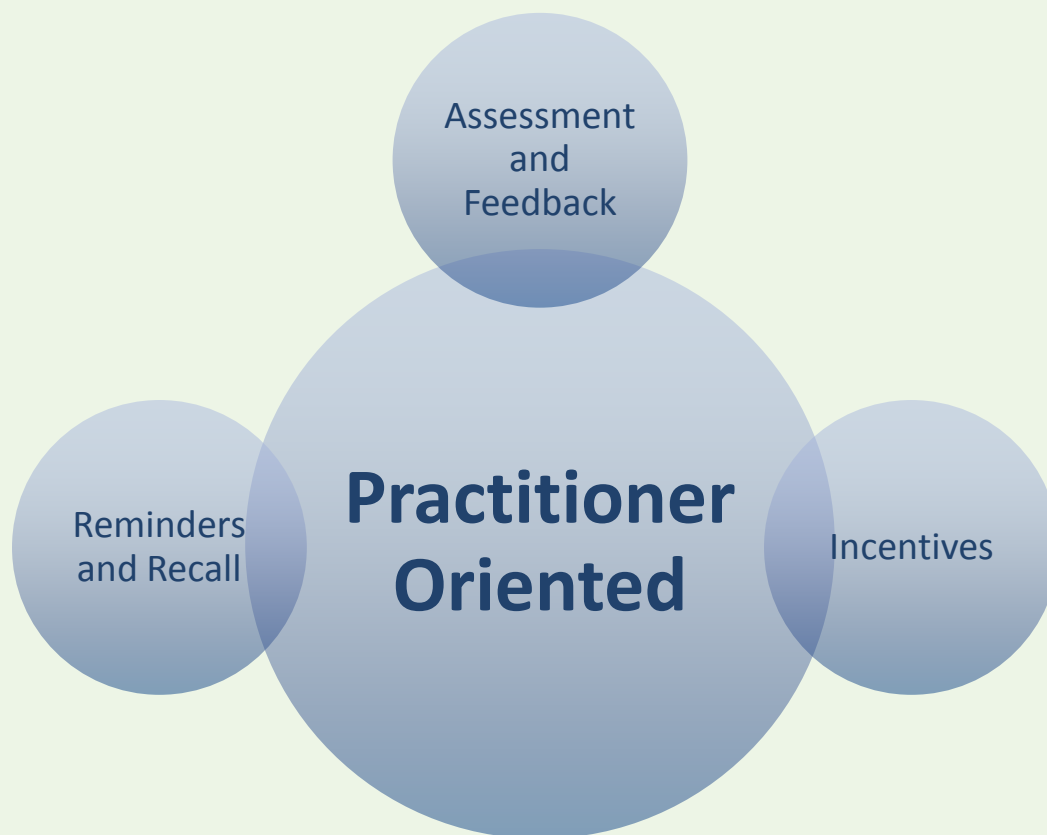
## **Insufficient Evidence:**

The available studies do not provide sufficient evidence to determine if the intervention is, or is not, effective. More research is necessary before a recommendation can be made

# Some Illustrations Using Cancer Screening



# Some Illustrations Using Cancer Screening



# Client Reminders for Cancer Screening: Recommendations & Findings

The Task Force recommends interventions that use client reminders based on evidence of their effectiveness in increasing:

- Breast cancer screening by mammography (strong evidence)
- Cervical cancer screening by Pap test (strong evidence)
- Colorectal cancer screening by fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) (sufficient evidence)

## Small Media: Recommendations & Findings

The Task Force recommends interventions that use small media based on evidence of their effectiveness in increasing:

- Breast cancer screening by mammography (**strong evidence**)
- Cervical cancer screening by Pap test (**strong evidence**)
- Colorectal cancer screening by fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) (**strong evidence**)

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# Questions?