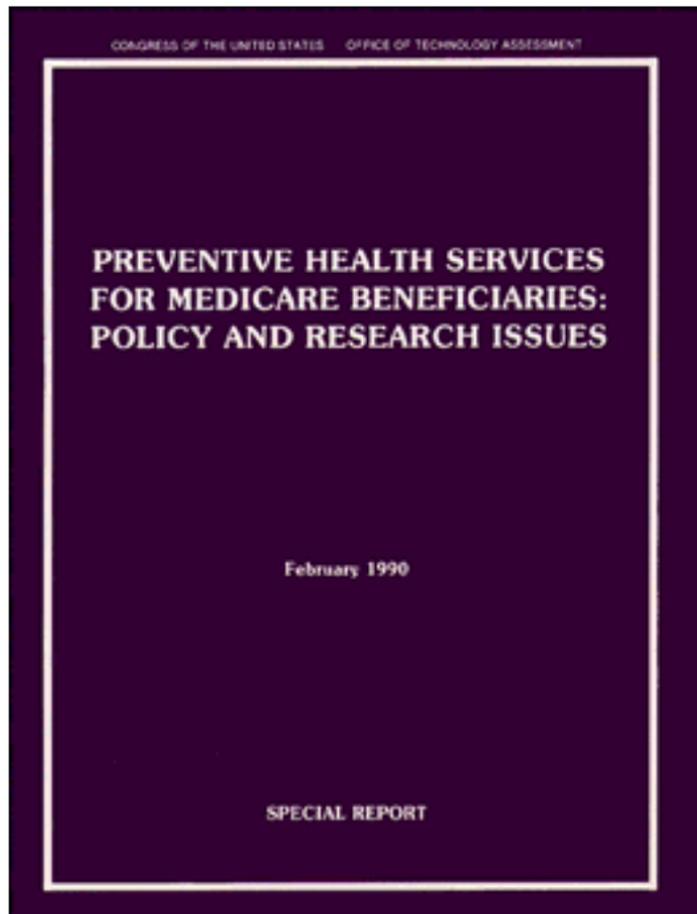


*Preventive Health Services for Medicare
Beneficiaries: Policy and Research Issues*

February 1990

OTA-H-416

NTIS order #PB90-219999



Recommended Citation:

U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, Preventive *Health Services for Medicare Beneficiaries: Policy and Research Issues*, OTA-H-416 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, February 1990).

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325
(order form can be found in the back of this special report)

Foreword

Interest in health promotion and disease prevention strategies for elderly people has grown in the past ten years, in part because of the need to find ways to moderate the rising costs of health care in this rapidly growing segment of the population. Reflecting this interest, the House Committee on Ways and Means requested that OTA analyze the effectiveness and costs of providing selected preventive health services to the elderly under the Medicare program. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee had earlier requested that OTA provide information on the value of preventive services for the American people. OTA responded with a study of the effectiveness and costs of four specific preventive services for the elderly: glaucoma screening; cholesterol screening; cervical cancer screening; and colorectal cancer screening. Background papers on each of these services are now or will soon be available. As mother part of the assessment, OTA prepared a staff paper on the factors affecting older people's use of preventive services, with particular emphasis on how insurance coverage could be expected to alter such patterns of use.

This Special Report analyzes policy and research issues raised in considering Medicare coverage of preventive services. OTA examines how decisions are currently made about coverage of specific preventive services under Medicare and lays out options for altering the process and criteria governing those decisions. The Special Report also reviews and critiques ongoing demonstration projects and summarizes the results of OTA studies of the costs and effectiveness of specific preventive services for the elderly.

C A Z & L & G - .
JOHN H. GIBBONS
Director

Advisory Panel—Project on Preventive Health Services Under Medicare

Gordon De Friese, *Panel Chair*
Health Services Research Center
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Marianne C. Fahs
Department of Health Economics
Mt. Sinai Medical Center
New York, NY

John Frank
Department of Preventive Medicine & Biostatistics
University of Toronto
Ontario, Canada

Gary D. Friedman
Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division
Permanence Medical Group, Inc.
Oakland, CA

Lawrence Gottlieb
Clinical Guidelines Program
Harvard Community Health Plan
Brookline Village, MA

Mary Knapp
John Whitman and Associates
Philadelphia, PA

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey
Geriatrics Program
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

M. Cristina Leske
Department of Preventive Medicine
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY

Donald Logsdon
INSURE Project
New York, NY

Mildred B. McCauley
American Association of Retired Persons
Washington, DC

Peter McMenamin
Chevy Chase, MD

Meredith Minkler
Center on Aging
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Marilyn Moon
Public Policy Institute
American Association of Retired Persons
Washington, DC

George Morley
Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology
University of Michigan Medical Center
Ann Arbor, MI

Gilbert Omenn
Dean, School of Public Health & Community Medicine
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

George Pickett
Department of Public Health Policy
School of Public Health
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Donald Shepard
Department of Health Policy and Management
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA

Barry Stults
Division of General Internal Medicine
University of Utah Medical Center
Salt Lake City, UT

NOTE: Advisory Panel members provide valuable guidance during the preparation of OTA reports. However, the presence of an individual on the Advisory Panel does not mean that individual agrees with or endorses the conclusions of this particular report

**OTA Project Staff—
Preventive Health Services for Medicare Beneficiaries:
Policy and Research Issues**

Roger C. Herdman, *Assistant Director, OTA
Health and Life Sciences Division*

Clyde J. Behney, *Health Program Manager*

Project Staff

Judith L. Wagner, Project Director

Elaine J. Power, *Analyst*

Michael Gluck, *Analyst*

Brigitte M. Duffy, *Research Analyst*

Administrative Staff

Virginia Cwalina, *Administrative Assistant*

Carol Ann Guntow, *P.C. Specialist*

Karen T. Davis, *Word Processor Specialist*

Carolyn Martin, *Secretary*