

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Chapter 1. Executive Summary	1
Criteria for Including Preventive Services as Covered Benefits	1
Locus of Responsibility for Coverage Decisions	2
Research Priorities	2
Chapter 2. Introduction	3
Chapter 3. Defining Preventive Services for the Elderly	5
Chapter 4. The Medicare Program and Preventive Services	9
Current Status of Medicare Funding for Preventive Services	9
Strengths and Weaknesses of Medicare as a Source of Funding for Preventive Services	9
Policy Issues in Developing a Medicare Strategy for Preventive Services	10
The Unit of Payment: Individual Procedures v. Service Package	11
Standards of Evidence	11
Locus of Responsibility for Coverage Decisions	13
Chapter 5. Evaluating the Evidence of the Cost-Effectiveness of Preventive Services for the Elderly: Selected Issues	15
Under What Conditions Is It Appropriate To Generalize About the Effectiveness of a Service on the Elderly From Evidence of Its Effectiveness in Nonelderly Populations?	15
How Should the Effects of Services Provided Together in a Package Be Attributed to Specific Procedures?	15
How Should the Costs of a Visit Be Apportioned Among the Individual Procedures and Interventions Provided in the Visit?	15
What Allowances in Cost Estimates, if Any, Should Be Made for Inefficiencies Inherent in the Medical Care System?	16
How Should Uncertainties Be Treated?	16
Chapter 6. Research Issues	17
Appendix A. Acknowledgments	19
Appendix B. Summary of OTA Studies of Preventive Services for the Elderly	20
Appendix C. The Medicare Preventive Services Demonstration Projects	22
Appendix D. Summary of Recommendations for Periodic Health Examinations in the Elderly	28
References	34

Box

	<i>Page</i>
A. Health Problems of the Elderly	7

Tables

	<i>Page</i>
1. Selected Potential Clinical Preventive Services for the Elderly	6
C-1. Design of Medicare Preventive Services Demonstration Projects	23
C-2. Preventive Services Offered in the Medicare Demonstration Projects	24
D-1. Recommendations for Physician Visits for the Elderly	29
D-2. Published Recommendations for the Use of Selected Preventive Services by Older Adults	30
D-3. Recommendations for Screening for Colorectal Cancer in the Elderly	33