

or cost-effectiveness of certain procedures or services. For example, S. 1177 (Rockefeller) calls for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to make coverage decisions on the basis of “usefulness and cost-effectiveness” of additional preventive services. The Cooper/Andrews managed competition bill would require that a national health board establish a uniform set of benefits which would include “the full range of effective clinical preventive services (including appropriate screening, counseling, and immunization and chemoprophylaxis).. ● ppropriate to age and other risk factors. ”

### Private proposals

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Many of the private proposals also refer to **effectiveness or cost-effectiveness** as criteria for including other preventive services in a benefit package. The American Hospital Association would include “other effectiveness preventive care services, ” and the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan would cover “other effective preventive **and screening** procedures. ”

### Conclusions

Notions that the coverage of preventive services can be cost-saving and a good “investment” have been central to the current health care reform debate. Many congressional and private reform proposals place prevention at the core of their plans and emphasize the need for a benefit package that includes a comprehensive set of prevention services. If a plan outlines a benefit package, regardless of the financial scheme of the plan (“play or pay, ” “single-payer,” “market reform, ” or “managed competition”), it generally stresses prevention as fundamental to uniform access to health care services. Pregnancy-related services and children’s preventive services in particular would be covered under nearly all the current major

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proposals, and adult screening and health promotion or education are--to a lesser extent--included in proposed benefit packages. Although the scope and level of coverage for preventive services vary substantially across plans, many proposals emphasize effectiveness or cost-effectiveness as criteria for shaping a minimum or standard set of benefits. As part of its assessment Technology, Insurance, and the Health Care System, OTA will be addressing the issues and concepts surrounding effectiveness and cost-effectiveness analysis for the purpose of designing a benefit package.