



The Reproductive Health Technologies Project Applauds Institute of Medicine Recommendations on Preventative Services for Women

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Statement by Kirsten Moore, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on the Institute of Medicine recommendations for clinical and preventive services for women:

“The clinical preventive services recommendations for women released by the Institute of Medicine are based on a thorough review of evidence and a commitment to public health. The recommendations confirm what women’s health advocates have said for years: helping women and couples plan a pregnancy is beneficial to individual women, to children and families, to communities, and to our nation’s health.

“We are thrilled to see the IOM recommend that every woman be given access to the full range of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved contraception methods and devices through her insurance plan without incurring any additional out-of-pocket fees.

“Removing cost barriers to contraception will greatly benefit women who might otherwise not be able to access these critical services. In addition, placing all FDA-approved contraceptives on the list means each woman will have a better chance of finding the right birth control method that suits her circumstances. Research has shown that women who use their first choice method are better able to prevent an unintended pregnancy.

“In addition to contraception, the IOM has recommended that yearly well-woman preventive care visits, screening and counseling to detect and prevent interpersonal and domestic violence, and counseling on sexually transmitted infections including HIV be offered with no additional co-pays.

“We strongly urge the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt these recommendations as part of the promise of health care reform – making affordable, preventive care available to everyone.”

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For more information about contraception, please visit: <http://www.rhtp.org/contraception>

For more information on the full IOM recommendations, please visit:
<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Clinical-Preventive-Services-for-Women-Closing-the-Gaps.aspx>