



# AAFP

## Health Care Research, Quality and Health Information Technology

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As of December 31, 2010

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In 2010, the Academy:

- Supported the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposed Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements in a December 22 [letter](#), but also urged the FDA to promptly publish a final rule.
- Offered guidance to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) Office of Prevention through Healthcare Office on their development of a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) in a December 16 [letter](#).
- Offered suggestions to CMS on their implementation of a Physician Compare Website in a November 30 [letter](#).
- Participated in a November 5 coalition [letter](#) to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regarding the oral transmission of a Schedule II controlled substance.
- Supported the National Prevention & Health Promotion Strategy (NPS) through a November 5 [coalition letter](#) to the HHS Surgeon General.
- Nominated three family physicians to the Methodology Committee of the Patient-Centered Research Institute (PCORI) in an October 26 [letter](#) to the GAO.
- In an October 22 letter to GAO, made two nominations to fill upcoming vacancies to the National Committee on Vital & Health Statistics (NCVHS), which is the HHS advisory body in the areas of health data policy, data standards, health information privacy, population-based data, and administrative simplification.
- Expressed objection in an October 14 [letter](#) to the Acting Comptroller of the GAO that no family physicians were included in the list of members of the Board of Governors of PCORI.
- Expressed in an October 11 [letter](#) to the HHS Assistant Secretary for the Office of Healthcare Quality that our existing policy encourages healthcare workers to receive influenza vaccinations. These comments were sent in order to assist in the preparation of the HHS Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections.
- Urged the FDA to implement and begin prompt enforcement of the ACA requirement that the agency develops federal nutrition labeling laws for restaurants with more than 20 locations and vending machine operators with more than 20 machines. In an October 7 [letter](#), AAFP expressed support for the new food menu labeling requirements as a way to help improve patients' knowledge of nutritional choices and help address the prevalence of obesity in the United States.
- In mid-September, the Academy was pleased to nominate three family physicians (Drs. Mark Ebell, Ted Ganiats, and William Hueston) for service on the USPSTF.
- Suggested topics in an August 26 letter to AHRQ for new clinical preventive health topics to be considered for review by the USPSTF.
- Sent an August 19 letter to HHS regarding their proposed changes to the HIPAA privacy, security and enforcement rules as required by Congress.

- Provided feedback in an August 18 letter to the National Quality Forum regarding their proposed member selection criteria, member responsibilities, and operating procedures for the Partnership for Applying Measures to Improve Quality (PAM).
- Nominated family physicians to serve on the National Healthcare Workforce Commission, the Board of Governors of the PCORI, and the Public Health Council in separate August letters to the GAO.
- Gave guidance to CMS in a February 26 [letter](#) on how to define the term “meaningful use” for purposes of the EHR incentive program. AAFP also participated in a [coalition letter](#) sent to CMS on March 15.