



New Heart Failure Guidelines

The American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines issued updated guidelines on the management of heart failure in adults. A new section was added to address management of hospitalized patients with heart failure, with suggestions for the diagnosis, identification, and treatment of acute coronary syndrome and other factors that precipitate heart failure. The guidelines also contain a table in which 2005 recommendations, organized by class, are compared alongside updated recommendations. The full text is available online at <http://circ.ahajournals.org>.

Jessup M, Abraham WT, Casey DE, et al. Focused Update: ACCF/AHA Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure in Adults. A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. *Circulation*. 2009;119(14):1977–2016.

USPSTF Recommendation on Aspirin

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) published new recommendations on the use of aspirin for prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD). The USPSTF states the benefit men aged 45 to 79 years obtain from using aspirin to reduce the risk of myocardial infarction exceeds the risk for gastrointestinal hemorrhage. Similarly, in women aged 55 to 79 years, the benefit of using aspirin to reduce the risk of ischemic stroke outweighs the risk for gastrointestinal hemorrhage. Evidence is unavailable to assess the

benefit of patients 80 years or older using aspirin for cardiovascular disease prevention. The full text is available at www.annals.org.

US Preventive Services Task Force. Aspirin for the prevention of cardiovascular disease: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *Ann Intern Med*. 2009;150(6):396–404.

NIH Consensus on Managing Hepatitis B

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a statement on the management of hepatitis B, highlighting therapeutic options. Currently, 7 options for therapy have been approved by the FDA and are categorized as either interferons (interferon- α 2b and peginterferon- α 2a) or nucleoside or nucleotide analogues (lamivudine, adefovir, entecavir, tenofovir, and telbivudine). These agents may be used as monotherapy or in combination. The full text is available at www.annals.org.

Sorrell MF, Belongia EA, Costa J, et al. National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement: management of hepatitis B. *Ann Intern Med*. 2009;150(2):104–110.

USPSTF Skin Cancer Screening Recommendations

The USPSTF issued a statement to update 2001 recommendations on screening for skin cancer. After reviewing evidence on the effectiveness of whole-body examination by primary care clinicians and self-examination by patients to detect skin cancer, the USPSTF concluded that evidence is insufficient to evaluate the harm and benefits of screening for skin cancer using

either of these methods. The full text is available at www.annals.org.

US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for skin cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *Ann Intern Med*. 2009;150(3):188–193.



Patient Education Guide for Pain Medicine

The FDA published a patient education guide outlining the safe use of pain medication. Following a recommendation by the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) urging clinicians to consider the potential for opioid abuse before prescribing medication, the guide includes separate recommendations on the proper use of opioid pain medications. It suggests patients maintain proper communication with their health care professional, follow directions carefully, and reduce the risk of drug interactions. Access the guide at www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/pain-meds022309.pdf. The AAPM guidelines for clinicians are available at www.ampainsoc.org.