



**City and County of San Francisco**  
Department on the Status of Women  
**Mayor Edwin M. Lee**  
**Executive Director Emily M. Murase, PhD**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**Contraception for All**

Beginning August 1, 2012: New Health Care Law Makes Contraception  
a Fully-Covered Health Insurance Benefit

As of August 1, 2012, American women now have full coverage for contraception and women's preventive health benefits. The Affordable Care Act mandates that private and public insurance plans cover the cost of contraception and other preventive health care. The majority of insured women will be covered by the time the ACA is fully implemented in 2014.

New preventive health benefits covered by the new policy are:

- Contraception counseling and coverage
- Annual well-woman visits
- Screening and counseling for: interpersonal violence, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, human papillomavirus, and pregnancy-related diabetes
- Breastfeeding counseling and supplies.

"President Obama is moving our country forward by giving women control over their health care," Herb Schultz, Regional Director the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said. "This law puts women and their doctors, not insurance companies or the government, in charge of health care decisions. Approximately 47 million women, including over five million in California, will now have guaranteed access to additional preventive services without cost-sharing for policies renewing on or after August 1, 2012."

According to Dr. Emily Murase, Executive Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, "Women serve as the heart of families. When women become ill, families can fall apart. Preventive care is the best use of healthcare dollars. We thank House Leader Nancy Pelosi and President Obama for their leadership in keeping women healthy."

"Preventive health care is a fundamental cornerstone of public health," according to Dr. Ellen R. Shaffer, lead author of a [commentary on the subject](#) in the journal *Medical Care*, and Director of Trust Women/Silver Ribbon Campaign. "We know that better access to benefits such as family planning and screening for interpersonal violence will continue to improve the lives and health of women, families, and communities."

"We are pleased to see this important health service benefit, endorsed by the United States' Institute of Medicine, being implemented for the benefit of any American woman who needs these services, and urge that it be supported by all concerned," added Steve Heilig, Associate Executive Director of the San Francisco Medical Society.

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