

October 28, 2011

Someone to talk to...
who understands!



Dear Friends and Us TOO Support Group/Chapter Leaders,

I am very pleased that we are once again able to send along the November *HotSheet*.

October has been a month filled with excitement but also deep concern and shock. Yes, there is the concern we have every October about the enviable amount of awareness and visible support for breast cancer which follows the lower level of visibility in September for prostate cancer. But this October, the media has been filled with news about prostate cancer as well. It is, however, troublesome news.

You will see a front cover story in the *HotSheet* about the draft recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and you most likely have seen emails from me, coverage in the media and comments from many organizations.

The Task Force has released new DRAFT recommendations against prostate-specific antigen (PSA)-based screening for prostate cancer. This is a “grade D” recommendation, which means the Task Force recommends against the service. Grade “D” also means that in their opinion “there is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits.” This is a move from their “I” recommendation which meant in the past their opinion was that the evidence was insufficient.

You can find the report at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/draftrec3.htm>
I encourage you to read it and make comments on it before the November 8th deadline.

I have talked to many of you and to representatives from the Us TOO Board of Directors as well as many representatives from other prostate cancer focused organizations and physician groups over the past few weeks. Please do not let this go, please speak-up!

Now, many of you have taken action by writing to your newspapers and even called or contacted your elected officials. This type of action is also important, especially because the Task Force recommendation can impact reimbursement and clinical practice. It also adds confusion for men who have decisions to make about their own health. Men like us and those we love and care about.

As always, educate yourself—there is a flurry of opinions and recommendations out there. Look at the Us TOO webpage, look at the webpages of the Prostate Cancer Roundtable and other organizations. Be aware of what Zero is doing to provide you with opportunities to contact your elected officials and for those of you in the DC area with what PHEN is doing with a “Rally to Live” event on November 2nd.

Please support our groups as we work together on this issue to influence what the final U.S. Preventive Services Task Force final report concludes. Please be active, stay alert as I and others will keep more information coming!

Thanks,

Thomas N. Kirk, President and CEO



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*Be the leading
prostate cancer organization
helping men and their families
make informed decisions
about prostate cancer
detection and treatment
through
support, education and advocacy.*



Us TOO is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1990 by prostate cancer survivors and their families.

