

# Top 5 Low-Value Services

## for Purchaser Action

The US spends more per capita on health than any other nation, but does not achieve outcomes commensurate with that spending. Billions are spent every year on services that harm patients- or at best, offer no clinical value.

A new Task Force on Low-Value Care has identified the "Top Five" low-value clinical services that are unsafe, do not improve health, or both. Drawing on the work of the Choosing Wisely campaign and others, the services were selected based on their association with harm, their cost, their prevalence, and the availability of levers for purchasers to help reduce their delivery.



### Diagnostic Testing and Imaging Before Low-Risk Surgery

**19.2 million** unneeded pre-surgery tests and imaging services

**\$9.5 billion** in avoidable spending

### Vitamin D Screening Tests

**6.3 million** non-clinically indicated Vitamin D tests

**\$800 million** in avoidable spending



### Prostate-Specific Antigen Testing for Men 75+

**>1 million** Medicare beneficiaries 75 and older receive a PSA test

**\$44 million** in avoidable Medicare spending

### Imaging for Low-Back Pain within 6 Weeks of Onset

**1.6 million** unnecessary imaging services for low-back pain

**\$500 million** in avoidable spending



### Branded Drug Use when Chemically Equivalent Generics are Available

**\$14.7 billion** spent unnecessarily on branded drugs

## Select Strategies to Reduce "Top Five" Use

Decision Support



Payment Models



Coverage Policies



Network Design



Provider Profiling

