**Preventative Care and Dermatology**

Preventative services are coded a certain way to indicate to the insurance company the service was for preventative care. Preventative services are identified on the A & B Recommendations of the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force as part of the Affordable Care Act.

In order for a claim to be considered preventative by your insurance company, it must be listed on the A & B Recommendations of the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force and submitted with preventative coding (meaning not diagnostic). If a patient chooses to have services rendered by a specialist, like a dermatologist, that claim will be submitted as a diagnostic office visit.

Most patients who visit a dermatologist have skin spots, birthmarks, lesions, moles or other noticeable skin conditions. Once a dermatologist has diagnosed a condition or lesion, whether the spot is benign or malignant, it is not preventative care because it is already there and is being diagnosed.

At this time Skin Cancer Screenings are **NOT** under the A or B recommendations, which is why it is not covered as a preventative visit.

For more information on the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force or the affordable Care Act, please visit the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force webpage for a complete list of services considered preventative care.

<https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/preventative-care-benefits/>

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/uspstf-a-and-b-recommendations/>

Sincerely,

Musick Dermatology & Advanced Clinical Spa Team