



Congressional Workshop Series: PREVENTING AND TREATING OBESITY IN THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2013; 2168 Rayburn House Office Building; 12:30 – 2 pm
RSVP to Jessa Merrill at jessa@obesitycampaign.org

BACKGROUND

Obesity is one of the most costly diseases affecting America's adults and children. In fact, it is the single greatest contributing factor to every other major chronic disease afflicting Americans today. More than two years ago, Congress enacted health care reform legislation that included a strong focus on prevention and treatment chronic medical conditions – including of obesity. Recently, there has been recognition in some circles that, by addressing the obesity epidemic, there is potential for hundreds of billions of dollars in savings in healthcare spending.

Under current law, behavioral interventions for persons with obesity are covered so long as they are provided in the primary care setting. While this was a positive step towards combating obesity in America – and one that was supported by a wide-array of patient and public health groups – challenges persist in making full use of the provision.

This briefing will review the science behind obesity, evidence-based weight loss therapies, as well as identify and discuss challenges faced by primary care physicians face when talking with and developing a weight loss plan for a patient. From this, participants will discuss best practices and lessons that can be derived from successful interventions and policy opportunities to ensure that more Americans have access to highly-trained medical professionals to help them on their journey to a healthy weight.

THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will help Members of Congress and their staffs, as well as key members of the public health community, academia and industry identify policy solutions for improving the prevention and treatment of obesity in the primary care setting. Potential questions to be considered include:

What Challenges Exist to Primary Care-Based Obesity Interventions?

- What guidance or curriculum exists for medical students about treating, identifying and diagnosing obesity?
- What incentives exist for medical professionals to treat patients for obesity?
- Are primary care physicians appropriately trained to treat obesity in their patients?
- What training do physicians currently receive in talking to and treating obesity in their patients?

CONCLUSION: What best practices can policymakers learn from and help advance to improve the care, treatment, and prevention of obesity in the primary care setting?

**** Lunch will be provided in accordance with widely-attended event exception to meal rule.**



*The Campaign to End Obesity cordially invites you to participate as a
DELEGATE at our*

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*Thursday, September 12th
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm*



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Speakers and panelists are TBD.

*Space is limited. RSVP by Tuesday, September 10th to Jessa Merrill,
jessa@obesitycampaign.org or 202-449-8367.*