Dear AOTA Member:

Over the next few weeks, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will host several Regional Listening Sessions throughout the nation to seek comment on the establishment of an essential health benefits package provided under the Affordable Care Act. We would appreciate your help in sharing the schedule of these Regional Listening Sessions with your members who might have an interest.

The table below provides the details for each of the finalized Regional Listening Sessions:

Region	City	Date	Time	Location	RSVP	RSVP Due
2	New York	14-Nov	10 AM - noon	26 Federal Plaza, Suite 3835 New York, New York 10278	Joynetta.Bell@hhs.gov	9-Nov
7	Kansas City	15-Nov	10 AM - noon	Bolling Federal Office Building 8th Floor SSA Conference Room 601 E. 12th Street Kansas City, MO 64106	Cindy.Cento@hhs.gov	10-Nov
4	Atlanta	16-Nov	10 AM - noon	61 Forsyth St. SW, Suite 5B95, Atlanta, GA 30303-8909	ORDAtlanta@hhs.gov	14-Nov
10	Seattle	17-Nov	2 - 5 PM	Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd Ave, South Auditorium, Seattle, WA		
8	Denver	18-Nov	9 AM - noon	999 18th St. South Terrace, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202	Ezra.Watland@hhs.gov	10-Nov
9	San Francisco	21-Nov	3 - 5 PM	90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-100, San Francisco, CA 94103	region9ord@hhs.gov	

(NOTE: We will be providing further information on the Seattle and San Francisco meetings shortly.)

The Affordable Care Act ensures Americans have access to quality, affordable health insurance. To achieve this goal, the law ensures plans offered in the new Affordable Insurance Exchanges offer a package of essential health benefits, which are to be defined by HHS.

The statute directs the Secretary to consider the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan in defining essential health benefits. To inform the Department, HHS received a survey of employer-sponsored coverage conducted by the Department of Labor

as well as recommendations from the Institute of Medicine on the criteria and methods for defining and updating essential health benefits.

HHS is committed to receiving broad public input on essential health benefits from all stakeholders, including States, patients, providers, employers, legislators, insurers, and all other interested Americans.

To that end, we are pleased to invite you to comment sessions for regional, state, and local stakeholders on essential health benefits. Senior HHS officials will be in attendance to listen to stakeholder feedback.

If you plan to attend the session, we ask that you consider these questions in preparing your comments:

- In keeping with the title of the Institute of Medicine report "Essential Health Benefits—Balancing Coverage and Cost", how can the Department best meet the dual goals of balancing the comprehensiveness of coverage included in essential health benefits and affordability?
- How might the Department ensure that essential health benefits reflect an appropriate balance among the categories so that they are not unduly weighted toward any category?
- What policy principles and criteria should be taken into account to prevent discrimination against individuals because of their age, disability status, or expected length of life as the Affordable Care Act requires?
- What models should HHS consider in developing essential health benefits?
- What criteria should be used to update essential health benefits over time and what should the process be for their modification?

To register for the event, please send an email with your name, organization, title, email address and phone number to the designated RSVP by the RSVP Due Date listed above**.** ***(NOTE: In some locations, RSVPs are needed for building security and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis)***

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Brian Chiglinsky, HHS Office of External Affairs at 202.619.1066 or brian.chiglinsky@hhs.gov.

Thanks,

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