

# CAPITOL STREET

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## RFK Jr Announces Pending USPSTF Changes

### RFK Promotes Alzheimer's Screening & Hints at Additions to Newborn Screening Panel

Relevant Companies



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### »» Our Take & Next Up

**HHS intends to solicit new USPSTF members this week and push for early screening for Alzheimer's disease in terms of new recommendations.** Today, HHS Secretary RFK Jr. told the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee ([here](#)) that changes are forthcoming to the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). We have said before that RFK Jr. is expected to target the USPSTF in reforming coverage of tests (our take [here](#)). We continue to expect cancer screening recommendations to stay largely intact (EXAS, GH, MYGN).

**Alzheimer's diagnostics could receive a USPSTF recommendation.** This is a potential positive for manufacturers of screening tests for Alzheimer's (Roche, Fujirebio) as RFK lamented that the current USPSTF was dragging its feet on a recommendation for Alzheimer's screening. The USPSTF currently doesn't have a recommendation for Alzheimer's screening, but an update on this topic is in progress ([here](#)).

### »» Key Points

**HHS will solicit new USPSTF members in a Federal Register (FR) notice this week.** In response to questioning from Rep. Balderson (R-OH), RFK noted that HHS is working to reform the USPSTF and specifically called out the panel's failure to put forth a recommendation on Alzheimer's screening. It's unclear if HHS will attempt to replace all 16 USPSTF members as it did with the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (our take [here](#)).

**Shifts in USPSTF recommendations could take shape this year with new membership.** Once reconstituted, the task force will likely begin a trickle of recommendation changes. It is possible that key screenings and preventive services will be reevaluated or rolled back. We also expect to see the administration push for new recommendations.

**As a reminder, USPSTF members ([here](#)) serve four-year terms and are appointed by the HHS Secretary after being nominated by the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ).** Each year, new members are appointed to succeed those whose terms have ended.

**Alzheimer's testing could get a boost in coverage from USPSTF recommendation.** We note there are multiple diagnostics cleared for Alzheimer's including: Roche's Elecsys pTau181 Plasma Test (FDA cleared October 2025); Fujirebio's Lumipulse G  $\beta$ -Amyloid Ratio (FDA cleared May 2025). Changes in the USPSTF makeup and recommendations could affect insurer coverage and cost-sharing for certain preventive services. Recall, the ACA stipulated that insurers must cover preventive services with a grade of 'A' or 'B' with no cost-sharing.

**On the congressional side, we note strong bipartisan support for the ASAP Act to enable Medicare coverage of blood-based Alzheimer's screening (Roche, Fujirebio).** At a March 26 event hosted by *the Hill* ([here](#)), bill sponsors Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Paul Tonko (D-NY) indicated that early detection and prevention/lifestyle changes can save money, preserve dignity/families, and slow progression of the disease. Barriers to adoption include insurance coverage gaps, CMS delays, staffing shortages, coverage with evidence development restrictions, and research funding concerns. Lawmakers noted modern advancements (new diagnostics, treatments, and national coordination (NAPA)), but stated that sustained investment and policy action is needed to avoid massive future costs.

**More additions to the newborn screening panel are likely forthcoming, according to RFKJ.** In a response to questioning from Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), RFK noted that HHS intends to add new conditions to the recommended universal screening panel for heritable screening (RUSP). The RUSP is a list of disorders recommended by HHS for state universal newborn screening programs. Although states ultimately determine what disorders their program will screen for, the RUSP establishes a standardized list of disorders that is adopted by most states. The majority of newborn screening are genetic and performed via a heel-prick blood test typically in the first 24–48 hours of life.

**HHS recently added two conditions to the newborn screening panel – Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Metachromatic leukodystrophy ([here](#)).** Potential additions include Fabry disease, Gaucher disease, Pompe disease, and other mitochondrial and neuromuscular disorders.

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