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In May 2012, a government panel the, USPSTF (the United States Preventive Services Task Force) published their final recommendation against the use of PSA testing which can allow for the detection and treatment of prostate cancer. This initiative may lead to the inability of patients to obtain this test for the screening and treatment for prostate cancer as it will likely not be covered by Medicare or most commercial insurance carriers.

In agreement with our colleagues in the American Urological Association, the physicians at Urology Specialists, P.C. feel strongly that when utilized appropriately, this test has been proven to save lives and should continue to be offered to our patients.

Health care professionals and patients alike need to take action now to preserve control of their health care and to protect their right to prostate cancer screening. Patients and their doctors are best equipped to decide when a PSA is indicated -- not a governmental panel with little or no experience with treating this disease.

What you can do:

1. Get educated:
 - Read the final recommendation of the USPSTF directly at:
<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/prostatecancerscreening/prostatefinalrs.pdf>
 - Read the American Urological Association's heated response to the USPSTF's recommendation: <http://www.auanet.org/content/health-policy/government-relations-and-advocacy/in-the-news/uspstf-psa-recommendations.cfm>
 - Read the comments on the controversy from our staff: Missouri Medicine Article : [Albani, JM. *Don't Test- Don't Treat: The New Paradigm for the Treatment of Prostate Cancer?* Missouri Medicine. Vol 108 \(6\): November/December 2011, 399-402](#)

2. Talk with your doctor to see if the PSA test is right for you.