

100

BLACK MEN
OF AMERICA, INC.

PROSTATE CANCER STATEMENT

6/16/2012



African American men and other men at highest risk of developing Prostate Cancer should ignore the new PSA Recommendation from the US Preventive Services Task Force.

“The 100 Black Men of America, Inc. is deeply disappointed that the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) failed to amend its draft recommendation on Prostate Cancer,” stated Albert E. Dotson, Jr., Chairman, 100 Black Men of America, Inc. “The final recommendation, issued in May 2012, did not reflect the benefits of the prostate specific antigen (PSA) test in the detection of Prostate Cancer for men at highest risk of having Prostate Cancer.”

African American men are 2½ times more likely to die from Prostate Cancer than white men. Prostate Cancer accounts for more than 40% of diagnosed cancers amongst African American men and African American men have 60% higher incidence of Prostate Cancer than white men.

In short, African American men get it earlier, get it more often, suffer graver symptoms and die more frequently from Prostate Cancer than their white male counterparts. For this reason the 100 BMOA supports routine PSA testing for men at highest risk because it has been widely reported that since PSA testing was introduced in the mid 1990s, death rates from Prostate Cancer have declined by 40%. *“The 100 BMOA recognizes that the PSA Test may not be the only reason for this decline and 100 BMOA believes this reduction is too important to ignore,”* said Dr. Mark Alexander, Chair, Health & Wellness Committee.

The 100BMOA believes USPSTF’s influence would have been better placed, if directed towards encouraging better management of Prostate Cancer. The 100 BMOA has decided to help reduce confusion about how to deal with Prostate Cancer among men at highest risk.

In particular, the 100BMOA advocates for more awareness and a clear understanding about the three critical elements in Prostate Cancer management:

1. *Early Detection*
2. *Monitoring*
3. *Treatment*



“Rather than instruct primary physicians to discourage men from having routine PSA tests, the Task Force should have instead focused on how best to educate primary care physicians on the proper utilization of PSA results to determine whether or not there is a need for treatment or consistent monitoring,” stated Charlie W. Hill, Chair, Prostate Cancer Initiative, 100 BMOA.

The 100 BMOA also agrees with Thomas Farrington, President and Founder, Prostate Health Education Network that the USPSTF issued a ‘death sentence’ to those men, who will need early detection of aggressive Prostate Cancer, but will ignore their Prostate health, based on this recommendation. Even more tragic is the likelihood that their primary care physician, if they have one, will do the same.

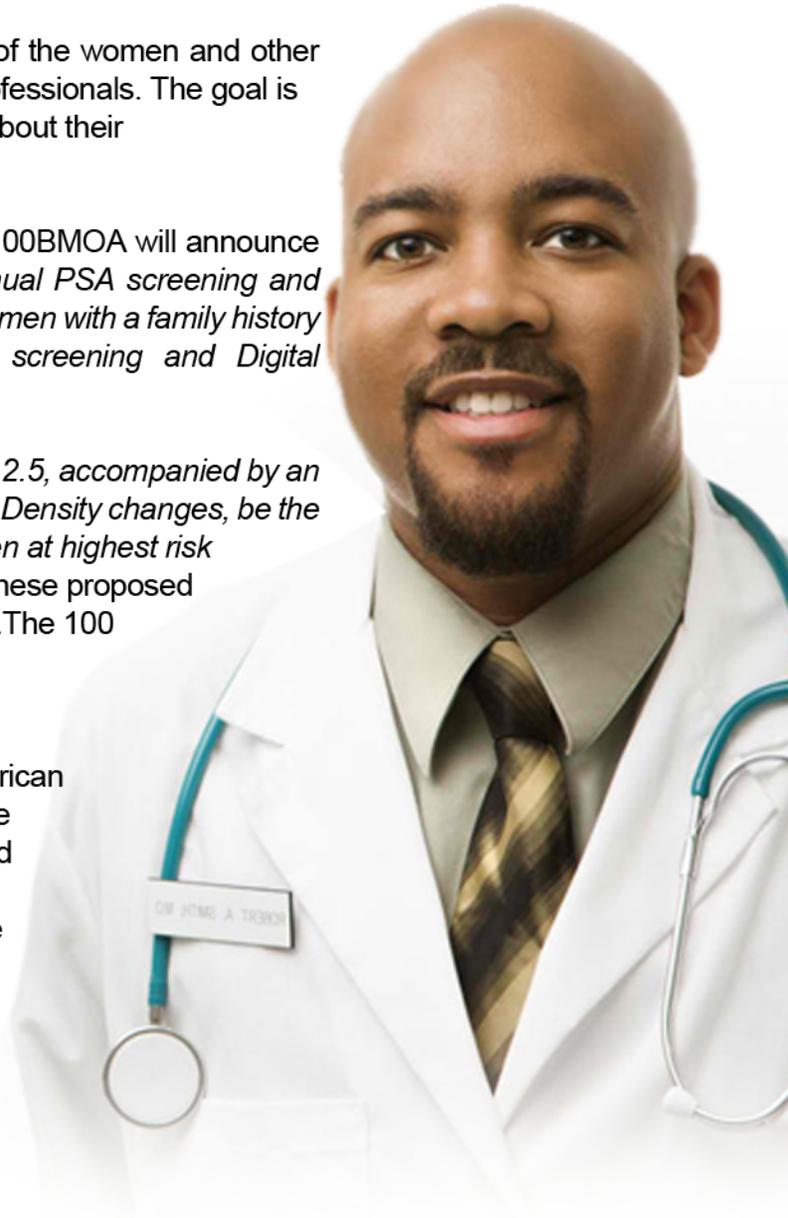
Therefore, the 100BMOA will continue to focus on educating and mentoring African American men, as well as other men at highest risk, about Prostate Cancer and the importance of early detection.

The 100 BMOA will in addition focus on the education of the women and other family members of these men, as well as health care professionals. The goal is to help men at highest risk to make informed decisions about their prostate health.

Also, during its 26th Annual Conference in Atlanta, the 100BMOA will announce its position that *African American men should start annual PSA screening and Digital Rectal Examinations (DRE) at age 35. In addition, men with a family history of Prostate Cancer should also start annual PSA screening and Digital Rectal Exams at age 35.*

It is also the position of the 100BMOA that a PSA level of 2.5, accompanied by an abnormal DRE and unacceptable PSA Velocity and PSA Density changes, be the biopsy threshold for African American men and other men at highest risk of having Prostate Cancer. The 100 BMOA recognizes these proposed standards should be agreed to by men and their doctors. The 100 BMOA expects these standards will be useful until more appropriate guidelines are universally available.

Furthermore, the 100BMOA advocates that African American men and other men at highest risk of developing Prostate Cancer, should discuss the benefits and risks of PSA and DRE early detection screening with their physicians and other healthcare professionals, who have the experience and necessary expertise in managing the health of men at highest risk of having Prostate Cancer.



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