**WOMEN**

Women’s Health Care

**Recommendation 1:** Women’s health care transcends reproductive care and should address the broad spectrum of health concerns of adult women through their life cycle. Delivering primary care to women is one of the core competencies of internal medicine. Internists should minimize the fragmentation of women’s health care and maximize the opportunities for comprehensive primary and preventive care at each clinical encounter.

**Recommendation 2:** Documented gaps in the education and training of internists in aspects of women’s health care should be corrected. Curricular improvements should lead to stronger skills in ambulatory gynecology; residency tracks and fellowships should include additional expertise in the range of women’s health issues. Practicing internists should use continuing medical education to sharpen and deepen the knowledge and skills they need to provide comprehensive care to their female patients.

**Recommendation 3:** All physicians delivering primary care to women should be competent to diagnose and manage the most common conditions in women presenting in the ambulatory setting. Anything less is antithetical to the concept of primary care. The abilities of all physicians delivering primary care to women should be judged on this basis. (Ad Hoc Committee on Women’s Health, ACP 1996; reaffirmed as amended BoR 06)