20 Patient and Physician Groups Urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to Protect Patients Who Use Supplemental Oxygen

Leading organizations urge CMS to use its statutory authority to improve the lives and treatment for Americans who require supplemental oxygen

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 6, 2018) — A group of 20 patient and physician groups submitted comments today regarding the proposed rule on Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and its application to supplemental oxygen. Below is a statement from the seven organizations leading the coalition:

“Today, patient and physician organizations joined together in commending the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for its recognition of numerous problems associated with access to oxygen in general and liquid oxygen systems, specifically. However, our organizations recognize that CMS’s proposal will not ultimately solve the problems facing patients – especially those who require liquid oxygen – and today, are urging CMS to remove liquid oxygen from competitive bidding requirements.

“Our organizations represent and treat the hundreds of thousands of Americans who rely on DME oxygen. For too long, patients who require a high liter flow of oxygen have not been able to leave their homes, jeopardizing their physical and mental health and quality of life. Other patients have also encountered countless other problems, including delivery issues and insufficient amounts of portable oxygen for them to continue working or simply running routine errands.

“Everyone deserves the opportunity to live a full and healthy life and, together, we ask CMS to use its existing authority to exclude liquid oxygen from competitive bidding and take meaningful
action to ensure that all patients who require supplemental oxygen receive the treatment they need.

“Our organizations look forward to working with CMS and the U.S. Congress to ensure patients receive the oxygen treatments they need.”

**Organizations submitting comments to CMS:**
- Allergy & Asthma Network
- Alliance for Patient Access
- Alpha-1 Foundation
- American Association for Respiratory Care
- American Lung Association
- American Sleep Apnea Association
- American Thoracic Society
- CHEST/American College of Chest Physicians
- Children's Interstitial Lung Disease (chILD) Foundation
- COPD Foundation
- Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
- Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network
- LAM Foundation
- Lung Transplant Foundation
- LUNGevity
- National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care
- Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
- Pulmonary Hypertension Association
- Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
- U.S. COPD Coalition

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**For media inquiries:**
- Alpha-1 Foundation – Bernardo Pisani: bpisani@alpha1.org
- American Association for Respiratory Care – Heather Willden: heather.willden@aarc.org; 972-243-2272
- American Lung Association – Allison MacMunn: Media@Lung.org; 312-801-7628
- American Thoracic Society – Dacia Morris: dmorris@thoracic.org
- COPD Foundation – Jamie Sullivan: jsullivan@copdfoundation.org; 202-445-4009
- National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care – Phil Porte: phil@namdrc.org; 703-752-4359
- Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation – Dorothy Coyle, dorotheyccoyle@gmail.com; 773-332-6201