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May 4, 2017

Arlene Bierman, MD, MS

Director, Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement

Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research

5600 Fishers Ln

Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Bierman:

The American Lung Association appreciates the opportunity to submit comments with regard to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) draft report for the systematic review on Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) Clinical Utility in Asthma Management conducted by AHRQ’s Evidence-Based Practice Center Program.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The organization represents lung disease patients, their families, loved ones and caregivers.

The Lung Association appreciates the analysis conducted with this report and believes it will contribute to our assessment of the proper use of this modality in care of the lung disease patients we advocate for.

In review of the report, the Lung Association believes there is a need to have further emphasis on a specific area, namely: how obesity modifies FeNO. FeNO is usually low in obese patients and although this is mentioned in a line statement, nothing was discussed in the report as to how this can affect use of FeNO as a tool to predict exacerbations, use of medications, etc., in the obese patient population. With greater than two-thirds of the US adult population is now either overweight or obese, it seems that this area should be addressed.

The report also includes very little strong evidence regarding FeNO for any measures other than decreased exacerbations. However, what do the data actually mean if we cannot track impact on hospitalizations, QOL, Asthma control and FEV<sub>1</sub>?

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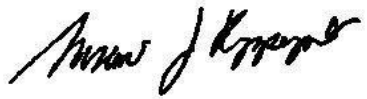
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We also believe a clearer conclusion would be helpful to further the understanding of the importance of this document. Additionally, the implications for using FeNO in clinical care seem limited. It seems most likely that this test will have an impact in children rather than adults.

The Lung Association respectfully thanks the AHRQ for conducting this report and for compiling all of the data from the various studies. We thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan J. Rappaport". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan J. Rappaport, MPH  
Vice President, Research and Scientific Affairs

