

From: Bruce Fries [<mailto:brucefries@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Web Info Quality (CDC) <infoquality@cdc.gov>
Subject: Information Quality Request for Correction

Information Quality Request for Correction

August 8, 2017

Complainant: Bruce Fries, Patient Centered Care Advocacy Group

Pursuant to the HHS [Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated to the Public](#), the Patient Centered Care Advocacy Group, a patient advocacy organization with members and supporters throughout the United States, makes the following request for correction of inaccurate information.

Information to be Corrected

The CDC website page for Lyme Disease Data and Statistics at www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/index.html contains the following statement in the Fast Facts section:

“Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vectorborne illness in the United States. In 2015, it was the sixth most common Nationally Notifiable disease. However this disease does not occur nationwide and is concentrated heavily in the northeast and upper Midwest.”

The statement “this disease does not occur nationwide” is inaccurate.

According to CDC surveillance reports, Lyme disease has been reported in every U.S. State except Hawaii,^[i] and the black-legged tick that transmits Lyme disease has been found in 45 percent of U.S. counties.^[ii]

The map at www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/maps.html clearly shows that Lyme disease occurs nationwide.

Impact

In addition to being a violation of HHS guidelines for information quality, the statement that Lyme disease does not occur nationwide has potential to harm patients in states with low incidence rates who are misdiagnosed and denied treatment when doctors rule out Lyme disease because of inaccurate information from CDC that Lyme disease does not occur nationwide.

Recommended Action

To correct the inaccuracy delete the following sentence:

“However this disease does not occur nationwide and is concentrated heavily in the northeast and upper Midwest.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bruce Alan Fries, President
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References

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- ^[i] Reported cases of Lyme disease by state or locality, 2005-2015 www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/tables.html
- ^[ii] Kugeler KJ, Farley GM, Forrester JD, Mead PS. Geographic Distribution and Expansion of Human Lyme Disease, United States. Emerg Infect Dis. 2015;21(8):1455-1457. <https://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2108.141878>