

From: Bruce Fries <brucefries@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:04 PM

Subject: Information Quality Request for Correction re EM Rash

Patient Centered Care Advocacy Group

March 14, 2019

Joanne Cono
Director of the Office of Science Quality
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Ms. Cono,

Attached is an Information Quality Request for Correction regarding inaccurate information disseminated by CDC about the frequency of erythema migrans (EM) rash in patients with Lyme disease.

CDC says the EM rash occurs in 70 – 80% of patients with Lyme. However, this assertion is based on a single study from 1984 that has never been replicated. More recent studies consistently show that the rate of EM rash is closer to 50%, and that the classic bulls-eye rash only appears in about 10% of the cases.

This is an especially important issue, since most federally funded clinical trials for Lyme use the presence or absence of the EM rash as an entry criteria and/or end point. As a result, these studies exclude more than half of true Lyme disease cases from the data analysis.

CDC's dissemination of inaccurate information about the EM rash also results in patients being misdiagnosed or denied treatment because they did not present with an EM rash.

For more details on the impact of inaccurate information about the EM rash, I included the paper *A Critical Reappraisal of the Science of Lyme Disease* by microbiology professor Holly Ahern as an Appendix to the information quality request for correction.

Feel free to contact me if you want additional information.

Sincerely,

/S/

Bruce Alan Fries, President
Patient Centered Care Advocacy Group
[202-617-1592](tel:202-617-1592), brucefries@gmail.com