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DATE

**INSURANCE COMPANY ADDRESS
ATTENTION: COMMERCIAL PLANS**

To whom it may concern:

The Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PAO-HNS), a statewide medical specialty organization representing over 200 physicians, many who specialize in sleep medicine, are writing this letter to advocate on behalf of our patients for the repair/replacement of the Philips Respironics devices that have been recently recalled. We are concerned that the recall and recommendation from Philips that patients stop using these devices has impacted a significant proportion of our patient population, many of whom are medically complex/fragile, including but not limited to, those with seizure and neuromuscular disorders, cardiopulmonary diseases/neurocognitive issues.

Many of our patients suffer from sleep disordered breathing conditions, including obstructive sleep apnea, hypoventilation, hypoxemia, and central sleep apnea which leave them dependent on ventilators for breathing. If left untreated, these conditions may lead to worsening of systemic and pulmonary hypertension, and exacerbation of other medical comorbidities such as epilepsy, asthma, impaired cardiac function, and chronic lung disease, excessive daytime sleepiness, cognitive sequelae such as inattention and poor school performance, worsening of dementia, behavioral and psychiatric disturbances. Without these devices, our patients are at risk of poor health outcomes and disturbance of their family and psychosocial situations.

We urge **NAME OF INSURER** to make all possible remediation efforts on a priority basis without delay. Otherwise, we are concerned that the families may feel they have no other recourse but to continue using a recalled device that may contribute to long-term detrimental effects, as noted in the recall.

As such, we urge you to expedite the replacement of our patients' recalled devices with devices not affected by the recall immediately so that our patients do not experience further disruption in their care. Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to this significant issue.

Sincerely,

David M. Cognetti, MD, FACS
President