The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

MARYLOU SUDDERS

Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH Commissioner

**Tel: 617-624-6000**

**www.mass.gov/dph**



CHARLES D. BAKER

Governor

KARYN E. POLITO

Lieutenant Governor

Dear Practice Manager, Physician, or Keeper of Medical Records:

This letter serves as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s (DPH) annual request for reporting of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) cases. We sincerely appreciate the past and future cooperation of all neurologists and health care facilities statewide in reporting all patients having been evaluated for or diagnosed with ALS. As you are aware, clinical research and interventions are often limited by incomplete epidemiologic data. Further, important public health questions have been raised regarding the possible increases in incidence of ALS. The DPH ALS Registry addresses this need with comprehensive disease surveillance, serving a valuable role for the community of patients, providers, researchers, and others concerned with ALS throughout the Commonwealth.

**DPH is requesting that you report any patients who reside in Massachusetts, have been evaluated for or diagnosed with ALS, and who visited your facility between January 1, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(YEAR) and December 31,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(YEAR).**

Please return the Report Form to:

 **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**Bureau of Environmental Health**

**c/o ALS Registry Coordinator**

 **250 Washington Street, 7th Floor**

 **Boston, MA 02108**

Included are the ICD-10 codes for ALS and associated illnesses that we are asking your office to report (second page). Upon receipt of this information, we will contact your office for an appointment to access the patients’ medical records to abstract relevant patient and diagnostic information. The original records will not leave your office and we will make every effort to be as unobtrusive as possible when abstracting this information. If you are a ***practice manager or are reporting on behalf of the entire neurology department***, please include a list of the neurologists in your department or practice.

For questions, please contact Tom Quail, RN, LNC at 617-624-5743. Thank you for helping to improve our understanding of ALS occurrence in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Alicia Fraser, MPH, DSc- Director, Environmental Epidemiology Program

Tom Quail, RN, LNC - ALS Registry Clinical Coordinator

**Diagnosis Codes:**

* **ICD 10 code** G12. 2: Diagnosis of Motor Neuron Disease
	+ G12.20 Motor neuron disease, unspecified
	+ G12.21 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
	+ G12.22 Progressive bulbar palsy
	+ G12.23 Primary lateral sclerosis
	+ G12.24 Familial motor neuron disease
	+ G12.25 Progressive spinal muscle atrophy
	+ G12.29 Other motor neuron disease

★ If your facility uses ICD-9 codes, please contact the ALS Registry Coordinator at 617-624-5757 so we can provide you with the list of ICD 9 codes that correspond to our request.