



**American Hospital
Association®**

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July 17, 2018

Gopal Khanna, MBA
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20814

Dear Mr. Khanna:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, the more than 270,000 physicians we employ, and the more than 35 million patients admitted to our hospitals annually, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes to express our disappointment that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is shutting down the National Guidelines Clearinghouse (NGC).

The NGC has been a valuable resource to clinicians and health care organizations in the United States and across the world for two decades. It provides easy access to evidence-based guidelines for practice, helping busy clinicians develop plans of care for patients, allowing health care organizations to create standard protocols for practice, embed decision support for their clinicians, and reduce practice variation to ensure the best outcomes for their patients.

It is regrettable that budget cuts have forced AHRQ to make the difficult decision to eliminate this valuable resource, much to the detriment of patients and the providers who treat them. We urge you to reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ashley B. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Public Policy Analysis and Development

