



American Burn Association
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The Honorable Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
400 7th St. SW, Floor 5W
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Encouraging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to Support the Formal Recognition of Burn Injury Sequelae as a Chronic Health Condition

Dear Director Bhattacharya,

The American Burn Association (ABA), along with burn centers across North America representing physicians, nurses, therapists, and researchers, writes to you today to urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to formally recognize burn injury sequelae as chronic health conditions.

According to the ABA's 2025 Annual Burn Injury Summary Report¹, there have been 162,799 burn injuries requiring inpatient hospitalization at a burn center over the last 5 years. Of these, 28,860 cases were pediatric burn cases. This data was collected from 114 burn centers across the United States. When accounting for all burn centers across the country, the number is much higher.

While remarkable progress has been made in the acute care and survival of patients with severe burn injuries, it is increasingly clear that the effects of burn injury do not end at hospital discharge. Burn survivors frequently experience lifelong physical, functional, and psychosocial consequences. These may include hypertrophic scarring, contractures, chronic pain, pruritus, thermal intolerance, metabolic and endocrine changes, mental health challenges, and long-term rehabilitation needs. Collectively, these sequelae represent a substantial and often underrecognized burden of disease.

Recognition of burn injury sequelae as chronic conditions by the CDC would represent an important step toward improving national awareness, surveillance, and research priorities. Such designation would help ensure that burn survivorship is appropriately reflected in public health policy, facilitate the development of long-term care models, and support improved access to rehabilitation and community resources for patients and families.

We urge the CDC to take this important step forward and recognize burn injury sequelae as chronic health conditions.

Sincerely,

[List of Institutions]

¹ American Burn Association 2025 Burn Injury Summary Report