



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

February 9, 2018

Gil Van Bokkelen  
Chief Executive Officer  
Athersys, Inc.  
3201 Carnegie Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2634

**Re: Athersys, Inc.**  
**Registration Statement on Form S-3**  
**Filed February 2, 2018**  
**File No. 333-222828**

Dear Dr. Van Bokkelen:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

Please contact Irene Paik at 202-551-6553 with any questions.

Division of Corporation Finance  
Office of Healthcare & Insurance

cc: Michael J. Solecki - Jones Day