Boston Scientific

# Tufts Health Plan Provides Coverage for First Device-Based Procedure to Treat Severe Asthma

**Boston Scientific Bronchial Thermoplasty (BT) Delivered by the ALAIR™ System Offers Proven Reduction in Asthma Attacks for Adult Patients with Severe Asthma Not Well Controlled with Medication**

MARLBOROUGH, Mass. (February 1, 2016) – Boston Scientific Corporation (NYSE: BSX) today announced that Bronchial Thermoplasty (BT) delivered by the Alair™ System is now available to Tufts Health Plan members in Massachusetts and Rhode Island who have severe asthma that is not well controlled with medication. While other insurers have approved Bronchial Thermoplasty (BT) on a case-by-case basis, Tufts Health Plan is the first commercial health insurance provider in New England to offer coverage for qualified patients.

This device-based treatment option is covered for Tufts Health Plan's commercial members and members of Tufts Health Together, a MassHealth Plan.

It is estimated that 235 million adults suffer from asthma globally, and the burden of this disease to patients, their families, health care systems and governments is increasing worldwide. Many patients manage their asthma with daily maintenance medications including inhaled corticosteroids and long acting beta-agonists. However, there are adults who continue to have symptoms of severe asthma despite maximal drug therapy. These adults may benefit from the Bronchial Thermoplasty procedure, in which a doctor uses the Alair™ System to deliver thermal energy to the airway wall in a precisely controlled manner to reduce excessive airway smooth muscle. It is designed to decrease the ability of the airway to constrict, in order to reduce the frequency and severity of asthma attacks and associated emergency room (ER) visits[1], and to help to improve asthma-related quality of life.

"Severe asthma is a serious health problem. Tufts Health Plan is addressing this significant unmet medical need by making Bronchial Thermoplasty available to its members with severe, difficult-to-control asthma," said Dr. Payam Aghassi, M.D., Mass Lung & Allergy, PC, UMass Memorial Health Alliance Hospital, Leominster, Mass.

Bronchial Thermoplasty delivered by the Alair System is an established procedure now available at more than 450 hospitals in 31 countries around the world. The benefits of Bronchial Thermoplasty have been shown to persist out to at least five years[2] and it has been proven to be safe and effective in clinical trials. Scientific literature shows evidence that Bronchial Thermoplasty provides improved health outcomes while reducing overall costs over time, both goals of U.S. healthcare reform. This one-time treatment consisting of three procedures becomes cost-effective as cost offsets accrue annually without the need for re-treatment[3]. Additionally, a growing list of society and advocacy groups have published position statements supporting access to Bronchial Thermoplasty as a treatment option for adult asthma patients who are not able to control their severe asthma with medication alone, including the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI), Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), British Thoracic Society (BTS), INTERASMA, Allergy and Asthma Network (AAN), and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA).

"Tufts Health Plan is a nationally recognized health plan, known for its commitment to quality. Now, more patients with severe asthma whose symptoms are uncontrolled despite an escalating drug regimen can have access to this established treatment option," said David Pierce, president, Endoscopy, Boston Scientific. "This coverage policy recognizes the demonstrated benefit of Bronchial Thermoplasty to improve the quality of life and reduce health care utilization for patients with severe asthma. We anticipate private payer coverage to continue to increase in 2016."

To learn more about Bronchial Thermoplasty delivered by the Alair System, visitwww.BTforAsthma.com.

**About Boston Scientific**

Boston Scientific transforms lives through innovative medical solutions that improve the health of patients around the world. As a global medical technology leader for more than 35 years, we advance science for life by providing a broad range of high performance solutions that address unmet patient needs and reduce the cost of healthcare. For more information, visit www.bostonscientific.com and connect on Twitter and Facebook.

**Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements may be identified by words like “anticipate,” “expect,” “project,” “believe,” “plan,” “estimate,” “intend” and similar words. These forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and estimates using information available to us at the time and are not intended to be guarantees of future events or performance. These forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements regarding our products, private insurance coverage and its impact, markets for our products, and product performance and impact. If our underlying assumptions turn out to be incorrect, or if certain risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results could vary materially from the expectations and projections expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. These factors, in some cases, have affected and in the future (together with other factors) could affect our ability to implement our business strategy and may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the statements expressed in this press release. As a result, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any of our forward-looking statements.

Factors that may cause such differences include, among other things: future economic, competitive, reimbursement and regulatory conditions; new product introductions; demographic trends; intellectual property; litigation; financial market conditions; and future business decisions made by us and our competitors. All of these factors are difficult or impossible to predict accurately and many of them are beyond our control. For a further list and description of these and other important risks and uncertainties that may affect our future operations, see Part I, Item 1A – Risk Factors in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we may update in Part II, Item 1A – Risk Factors in Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q we have filed or will file hereafter. We disclaim any intention or obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect any change in our expectations or in events, conditions or circumstances on which those expectations may be based, or that may affect the likelihood that actual results will differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. This cautionary statement is applicable to all forward-looking statements contained in this document.

CONTACTS:
Tom Keppeler
508-683-6585 (office)
Media Relations
Boston Scientific Corporation
tom.keppeler@bsci.com

Investors: Susie Lisa, CFA
508-683-5565 (office)
Investor Relations
Boston Scientific Corporation
investor_relations@bsci.com

[1] Castro M, et al, for the AIR2 Trial Study Group. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2010;181:116-124
[2] Wechsler M et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2013 Dec;132(6):1295-302
[3] *Expert Rev. Pharmacoecon. Outcomes Res. Early online, 1–8 (2014)*

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