

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

June 2, 2023

Daniel Camardo Chief Executive Officer Athersys, Inc. 3201 Carnegie Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2634

Re: Athersys, Inc.
Registration Statement on Form S-3
Filed May 26, 2023
File No. 333-272254

Dear Daniel Camardo:

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 Dillon Hagius at 202-551-7967 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Division of Corporation Finance Office of Life Sciences

cc: Michael J. Solecki