




September 21st, 2020

Respected Editor-in-Chief,

Please be aware that the study presented in the attached manuscript, which utilized data from the National Inpatient Sample database, meets all relevant ethical and regulatory standards. National Inpatient Sample is a publicly available database provided by Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality. It includes national representative sample of discharge level files and doesn't include patient or hospital identifiable information. Because of nature of its complex sampling method, and being a deidentified database available for public use, informed consent and institutional board review policy were met and as per the IRB policy at Saint Vincent Hospital no review or approval was required.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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