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Editors-in-Chiefs, World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Editors-in-Chiefs:

My co-authors and I are submitting a retrospective study article for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, titled "The Healthcare and Economic Impact of Diarrhea Among Patients with Carcinoid Syndrome" (word count: 2,953).

Healthcare resource utilization patterns and costs accrued by carcinoid syndrome (CS) patients with and without diarrhea have not been well described. We examined newly diagnosed CS patients using MarketScan® commercial claims data from 2003-2012 and found that non-infectious diarrhea (NID) is particularly burdensome and costly in CS patients. The proportions of patients with any and with CS-related hospitalizations were higher in patients with NID (9.6%) than in those with no NID (6.8%;  $p < .001$ ). The NID group was also significantly more costly, with adjusted mean annual healthcare costs of \$80,600, compared to \$51,955 in the no NID group ( $p < .001$ ).

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval was not required for this study since this was a systematic literature review.

My co-authors and I confirm that this manuscript is original and not under consideration elsewhere, none of the paper's contents have been previously published, and all authors have reviewed and approved the manuscript.

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Maureen P. Neary is an employee of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Michael S. Broder, Eunice Chang, and Dasha Cherepanov are employees of the Partnership for Health Analytic Research, LLC (PHAR, LLC), a health services research company paid by Novartis to conduct this research; Dorothy Romanus is a former employee of PHAR, LLC.

I will serve as the corresponding author for this submission.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

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