

### **Institutional Review Board waiver**

The study protocol was reviewed by the Ethics Committee at Palisades Medical Center and the need for IRB approval was waived as the National Inpatient Database is a public-use dataset.

Sincerely,

Simcha Weissman, MD

Chairman of the Ethics committee at Palisades Medical Center

Department of Internal Medicine. Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center, North Bergen, NJ

Email: [Simchaweissman@gmail.com](mailto:Simchaweissman@gmail.com)