



August 14, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

Please be aware that the study presented in the attached manuscript, which utilizes data from the Health Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), meets all relevant ethical and regulatory standards. These data, which were received by the investigators completely deidentified, required a local data custodian (which is myself), and all investigators who accessed the data completed HCUP appropriate data use training and signed data use agreements. As such, our use of the HCUP data met the Central Michigan University IRB policy that such data use is not human subjects research, and as such does not require their review or approval.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Beth Bailey'.

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