



Hackensack
Meridian Health
Ocean Medical Center

To
Editor in Chief,
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Dear Dr. Editor,

Our original article titled "**Disparities in Colonoscopy Utilization for Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding in Rural versus Urban settings in the USA**". This was a retrospective cohort study using data from the National Inpatient Sample (NIS), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), and included patients 18 years and older hospitalized with lower GI bleeds admitted between 2010 and 2016.

Our study did not involve any direct contact with the patients. So, we did not need to obtain IRB approval and patient consent.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Thank you

Pramil Cheriya MD, MS, FACP, SQIL (Harvard)
Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Program Director, Transitional Year Residency Program
Hackensack Meridian Health Ocean University Medical Center,
1610 NJ-88, Brick, New Jersey, USA, 08724,
Work: (732) 295 - 6561
Mobile: (717) 460 1971
Fax: (732) 295 - 6090
Email: Pramil.cheriyath@hmhn.org