

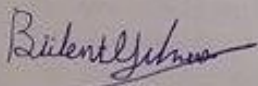
Dear Editor,

According to our University Case Report Publication Guidance for IRB Review and HIPAA Compliance a case report for IRB purposes is a retrospective analysis of one, two, or three clinical cases. If more than three cases are involved in the analytical activity, the activity will constitute "research." A case report is a medical/educational activity that does not meet the DHHS definition of "research", which is: "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." Therefore, the activity does not have to be reviewed by IRB.

Under HIPAA, a case report is an activity to develop information to be shared for medical/educational purposes. Although the use of protected health information to prepare the paper does not require IRB review, the author of a case report must comply with HIPAA. Ideally, the author of the article will obtain the signed authorization of the subject, or the subject's legally authorized representative if the subject is deceased, to use the subject's information in the article.

Since a signed consent form of the patient written in his native language is provided, an IRB approval in this case is not essential and therefore is not provided.

Sincerely yours,



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