

INSTITUTIONAL BOARD REVIEW STATEMENT

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

Manuscript NO: 35898

Manuscript Type: *Case Control Study*

Title: Season of the year influences infection rates following total hip

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This study was conducted by analyzing the Medicare Standard Analytical Files (SAF) through the PearlDiver Supercomputer. This allows the researcher to examine national procedures and outcomes by way of identifying patients based on International Classification of Disease and Current Procedural Terminology Codes. The database is Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant, as it does not allow its users to identify patients protecting their privacy. This database is a commercial publically available resource, which does not require IRB approval as patient identifying information is not kept and tracked within the server.

Sincerely on behalf of all the authors,

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