

## **To Whom It May Concern**

This is to certify the document entitled:  
**CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF CHRONIC VIRAL HEPATITIS B: THE  
TUSCANY REAL-WORD LARGE-SCALE COHORT STUDY**

As specified in the study design, the demographic data of the study were appropriately encrypted in the database. The software not only allowed the research team to include guided and controlled information using a combo-box but also to export files ready to be sent.

The exported file (containing the "anonymized" data) was sent from the system to the Regional Health Agency of Tuscany via a secure channel (SSL). After logging in and connecting to the Agency's web page, the user was then able to upload the file.  
The local Ethics Committee approved the study.

Thanks very much,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Fabio Voller  
Head of the Epidemiology Unit  
Regional Health Agency of Tuscany

