

Institutional Review Board

The study population was identified from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project databases (HCUP). The HCUP databases are sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) database is the largest HCUP database and it contains unweighted data from over 7 million hospital admission each year. The data represent a 20% random sample of participating hospital discharges from 46 states. The NIS database is de-identified and available to the public. Thus, it is not considered human subject research and is exempted from review by the institutional review board.