



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

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