

To: Editor-in-Chief of World Journal of Hepatology,

We have used the publicly available national inpatient sample dataset provided by The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP).

- **HCUP Databases Are Limited Data Sets**

HCUP databases conform to the definition of a limited data set. A limited data set is healthcare data in which 16 direct identifiers specified in the Privacy Rule have been removed. Under HIPAA, review by an institutional review board (IRB) is not required to use limited data sets.

- **HCUP Is Consistent with HIPAA Regulations**

The HCUP DUA is consistent with HIPAA requirements for using a limited data set.

Therefore, IRB approval was not required from Wayne State University

Reference:

**[https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/DUA/dua\\_508/DUA508version.jsp](https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/DUA/dua_508/DUA508version.jsp)**

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