

# Institutional Review Board Approval Form

November

1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**Re: Trends and Gender Disparities in Hepatitis C-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Mortality Rates in World Bank Regions: A Data-Driven Analysis from the Global Burden of Disease from 1999 to 2019**

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Patients' data was not acquired by any specific institution rather open access Global burden of disease datasets. The GBD contains de-identified information, protecting the privacy of patients, physicians, and hospitals. Therefore, it was deemed exempt from the institutional review board (IRB). As each hospitalization is stripped of any patient identifiers, patient consent was also waived.

Please contact me with any queries.

Regards,

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