

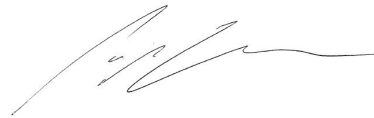
Emory University  
Department of Economics  
1602 Fishburne Drive  
Rich Memorial Building, Room 306  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
(404) 727-8808

June 8, 2018

Dear Editorial Staff,

I have no relevant interests to disclose. The HCCI data meet the HIPAA standard for deidentified data and studies using the data do not require IRB approval. Furthermore, the data are aggregated to the hospital-level over multiple payers and no individual hospital or person data is reported in the results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian McCarthy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian McCarthy