Author's response to reviews

Title: Hospitalization rates and cost in severe or complicated obesity: An Italian cohort study.

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Dear Editor,

we would like to re-submit to your attention the enclosed manuscript entitled “Hospitalisation rates and cost determinants in severe or complicated obesity: An Italian cohort study”, with the required changes on ethical issues.

According to the local ethical committee, when the study was started, it was considered a clinical audit for the monitoring of the patterns of care delivered to obese patients after a discharge and an ethical approval was not required. A statement has been added in the text (pag. 4), as required.

We considered that was inappropriate to ask for a written informed consent for the participation in the study because of the retrospective design of the study and the epidemiological concern to cause a selection bias in a population based survey due to the obtainment of the written informed consent only from a part of participants.

Data anonymisation has been guarantee by working with encrypted personal identification codes.

Thank you for your attention and your consideration.

Best regards

Enrica Migliore, Eva Pagano and co-authors

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