8,700 eligible physicians

Stage 1: simple random sample of 3,600 (41.4%) eligible physicians

3,600 sampled physicians

Stage 2: simple random sample of 1 eligible practice location per physician

3,600 physician practice locations

Stage 3: random sample of 10 visits per physician practice location:
- 5 visits negative for all syndromes
- 1 visit positive for each of the 5 syndromes (fever, gastrointestinal, neurological, rash, and respiratory including influenza-like illness).
  - For each syndrome, the sample of syndrome-positive visit was further stratified by ICD-9 code.
Exclusion was used to ensure each patient was sampled only once.
Syndrome-negative visits were frequency-matched on month to syndrome positive visits to avoid seasonal bias.

36,000 visits to be verified