Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Outcomes of Seasonal Influenza and Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) in Pediatric Inpatients

Version: 1 Date: 28 June 2010

Reviewer: Susan E Coffin

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Tamma et al.

“Clinical Outcomes of Seasonal Influenza and Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) in Pediatric Inpatients
Submitted to Biomed Central - Pediatrics (June, 2010)

Tamma and colleagues present a case series of 266 hospitalized children over 3 consecutive influenza outbreaks (2 due to seasonal and 1 due to pandemic influenza H1N1). This report provides new data on the clinical characteristics and outcomes of children hospitalized with nH1N1. In addition, the authors found that the outcomes of children hospitalized with nH1N1 were less severe (as measured by length of stay) than for children hospitalized with seasonal influenza. They argue that the severity of patient outcomes associated with SI should be considered when allocating resources related to prevention and management of pediatric influenza.

Additional comments:

1. Abstract: The 1st sentence of the “Results” section seems to be inaccurate. I assume that many of the nH1N1 patients were admitted during the 2009-2010 season.

2. Results: The authors present data that suggest differences in patient outcomes based on flu strain may be related to factors other than a lower threshold for hospitalization during the nH1N1 outbreak. These authors found that among SI and nH1N1 patients similar proportions of outpatients with positive flu test results were hospitalized and that similar proportions were admitted to the PICU. These findings could be highlighted more in the discussion.

3. Results/Discussion: It would be interesting to know why the authors thought the prevalence of specific comorbid conditions (specifically asthma and neuromuscular disorders) differed for patients with SI as compared to nH1N1 infection.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.