Author's response to reviews

Title: The impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus compared with seasonal influenza epidemics on intensive care admissions in New South Wales, Australia, 2007 to 2010: a time series analysis.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a manuscript entitled: “The impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus compared with seasonal influenza epidemics on intensive care admissions in New South Wales, Australia, 2007 to 2010: a time series analysis” which I am submitting for consideration of publication as a Research article in BMC Public Health.

This work uses a population-based, time series approach to compare the impact of recent epidemics of seasonal and pandemic influenza on demand for intensive care in New South Wales, the most populous state in Australia, from 2007 to 2010. While there have been many studies of the impact of H1N1 pandemic influenza on health outcomes, to our understanding this is the first study to compare the demand placed on intensive care units by pandemic influenza to that of seasonal influenza at a population level.

Our findings suggest the 2007 influenza epidemic had a far greater impact on intensive care than the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, and thus the impact of seasonal influenza may have been previously under-recognised. We believe that our work would be very much of interest to readers of BMC Public Health, especially those with an interest in infectious diseases and influenza in particular.

Please note that the above mentioned manuscript has not been published elsewhere, accepted for publication elsewhere or currently under editorial review for publication elsewhere.

In case of any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

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