Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparing Estimates of Influenza-Associated Hospitalization and Death among Adults with Congestive Heart Failure Based on how Influenza Season is Defined

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Dear Editor,

As requested by the reviewer, we annualized the rates of hospitalization and the rates of deaths. We changed the following areas in the text to reflect this:

1. Page 7, last line. inserted "annualized" before "rate".
2. Page 9, first paragraph, last 2 sentences. inserted "The rate of attributable excess hospitalizations was variable depending on the definition used. Notably, the annualized rate of hospitalizations was highly variable, ranging from 5.95 (5% total season) to 15.41 (first/last) hospitalizations per 1,000 patient-years depending on the definition used."
3. Page 9, last sentence. Inserted "As seen with hospitalization, the rate of attributable excess deaths was variable depending on the definition used. There was striking variation in the annualized rate of deaths attributable to influenza, ranging from 0.71 (5% total season) to 8.10 (first/last isolate) deaths per 1,000 patients per year depending on the definition used."
4. Page 11, second to last paragraph. Inserted "The annualized influenza attributable rates of hospitalization and death were quite variable depending on the definition used (Tables 2 and 4)."
5. We deleted "Researchers should consider using more than one definition when assessing influenza-attributable risk" from the abstract.
6. We deleted "Researchers should consider using more than one definition when assessing influenza-attributable risk" from the conclusion.