Author's response to reviews

Title: Incidence of Viral Respiratory Infections among Outpatient and Hospitalized Children Aged [less than or equal to]5 Years and Its Associated Cost in Buenos Aires, Argentina

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

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript titled “Incidence of Viral Respiratory Infections among Outpatient and Hospitalized Children Aged ≤5 Years and Its Associated Cost in Buenos Aires, Argentina.” A WHO Global Influenza Program technical consultation during December 10-12, 2014 concluded that although understanding the burden of influenza and other respiratory viruses is necessary to guide public health measures globally, limited data are available from middle income countries.

We used WHO recommended methods to estimate the population-based incidence of severe acute respiratory infections among hospitalized children aged <5 years in Buenos Aires. Our study findings provide comprehensive data about the etiology, incidences, and associated cost of severe acute viral respiratory infections among these children. These findings are anticipated to help prioritize prevention strategies to reduce the disease burden in similar settings.

The revised version on this manuscript has addressed all the concerns raised by two reviewers. All comments and questions have been carefully addressed by all the authors on the manuscript. Additionally, we have included a new appendix, showing the geography of our study area.

The final version of this manuscript of original research has been reviewed and approved by all co-authors and cleared by CEMIC and CDC. All the authors in the paper have contributed significantly and fulfill the authorship criteria. We report no conflicts of interest. All but CEMIC co-authors are U.S. government employees. The data have not been published, either in whole or in part elsewhere. No similar manuscripts are in press or under review elsewhere.

We believe that our manuscript will be of interest to the international readership. We appreciate your consideration of our manuscript for publication.

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