

HOSPITALISED CHILDREN WITH PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 INFLUENZA

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Dear Sir,

I found the article published in the February 2016 issue of the *Singapore Medical Journal* regarding hospitalised children with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in Malaysia very interesting.⁽¹⁾ Koh et al reported that “*the clinical presentation of the children infected with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus did not differ significantly from that of children with seasonal influenza*”. Indeed, the clinical presentation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus is the same as other types of influenza, although the probability of atypical presentation is possible.⁽²⁾ Koh et al mentioned risk factors for severe disease, namely “*age ≤ 2 years, underlying bronchial asthma and chronic lung disease*”.⁽²⁾ However, in a recent report from Canada, those risk factors were not mentioned.⁽³⁾ In fact, the risk of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza can be modified by several factors, including early diagnosis and prompt management of cases. These factors were not mentioned by Koh et al.⁽¹⁾ It should be noted that the Malaysian nationality of the patients does not affect the natural history of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza; instead, our focus should be on management of the cases in different settings, which might be related to risk.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor’s note: The authors, Koh et al, have declined to respond to the above letter.