

Editor's Comment:

I acknowledge receipt of Ms Associated Signs and Symptoms of Confirmed Influenza Infections in Ghana.

I have carefully revised all included documents and having read the Ms, I offer you my comments:

1. The Methods in Abstract are incomplete. The way they are written mean nothing.
2. I feel uneasy on the following: nothing is said on the quality of the health services in charge of influenza surveillance, is it permanent? how effective? has it been rated? is the case reporting standardized? has their capacity to detect viruses causing influenza been evaluated? otherwise one has to believe at face value their reporting. Authors should comment on this aspect.
3. Nothing is said on how samples are collected in the field and what measures are taken to ensure that they are well preserved before arrival at the lab.
4. the authors revised 2,089 cases; however, only 348 (line 145) were confirmed as influenza by the laboratory. What about the remaining 1,741 ILI? why were those considered influenza if not confirmed by the lab?
5. It is obvious to me: authors should compare signs and symptoms of confirmed influenza cases (348) with 1,741 influenza-like illness (ILI) to draw some conclusions.
6. In other words, if there were 348 cases confirmed as influenza cases, how did their symptoms compare to those 1,741 ILI not confirmed by the lab? To me, this would be interesting to know. Actually, this was proposed in their hypothesis (lines 106-107 "there was an association between signs and symptoms documented by prescribers and confirmed influenza positive laboratory results"), but was not clearly analyzed in this Ms.
7. Cases (of influenza? of ILI?) were said to peak in November (line 122); however, nowhere is this shown.
8. Since authors did not compare both groups (influenza confirmed vrs ILI), the statement in lines 204-210 requires rewriting.
9. Did the authors really consult all references cited or they read the abstract only? Discussion is poor.

Editor's Details:

Dr. Rina Girard Kaminsky
Universidad Nacional Autonoma,
Honduras Institute for Infectious Diseases and Parasitology Antonio Vidal, Honduras