

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chinese guidelines for influenza management

Somsri Wiwanitkit¹, Viroj Wiwanitkit²

¹Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhuae, Bangkok Thailand; ²Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhuae, Bangkok Thailand

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Sir, the recent publication on Chinese guideline for influenza management is very interesting (1). Indeed, there are many recent publications on regional guideline for management of influenza such as recent publications for Eastern Mediterranean Region (2) and European (3). It is wise to set a specific guideline for different region with different underlying geographical pathology pattern. An important thing to be considered is the attachment to the guideline by the health practitioners. Some specific groups of practitioners might have the problems in implementation. It is reported that the young internists is the group that have the problem of practice and there might be reasonable to add a specific guideline for them (4). Also, another study reports that generalists are more frequent to recommend vaccination to risk patients comparing to the specialist (5). Hence, there must be the system to reassure the success of implementation of the proposed guideline. As Rickert et al. noted, "research is needed to assist in putting support strategies into practice (6)". The other concern is on the generalization of this atypical influenza such as swine flu. It should be noted that swine is presently re-emerging in Southeast Asia and might expand to China (7). The effectiveness of the present guideline to correspond the emerging of atypical influenza is a challenging issue.

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Corresponding to: Somsri Wiwanitkit, MD. Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhuae, Bangkok Thailand 10160. Tel: 6624132436; Fax: 6624132436. Email: somsriviwan@hotmail.com.

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