

Clinical checklist Influenza A(H1N1)

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Development process

In response to the pandemic threat by a new influenza A(H1N1) strain, the development of a patient care checklist was started on 29 April 2009. The core checklist development group in the WHO Patient Safety Programme collaborated with technical experts in WHO Health Security and Environment.

Experts in infection control, the clinical management of pandemic-prone influenza and health-care checklist development were consulted. The design and content of the checklist was developed iteratively through successive rounds of consultation. Clinical teams in a number of settings provided feedback on its clarity and usability. This included feedback from facilities and providers currently caring for Influenza A(H1N1) patients or from clinical teams preparing for a pandemic by performing a simulation exercise using the checklist on a mock patient. Its use in clinical practice will be the subject of ongoing evaluation.

The following health-care facilities took part in a simulation exercise or a provider-focused discussion of the checklist: Brigham & Women's Hospital (United States), Hospital General Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez (Mexico), Department of Infectious Diseases, Instituto Nacional de Cancerología (Mexico), Johns Hopkins Hospital (United States), New York City Health and Hospital Corporation hospitals (United States), North York General Hospital (Canada) and University Hospital Leicester (United Kingdom).

How to use

The WHO New Influenza A(H1N1) Clinical Checklist is intended for use by hospital staff treating a patient with a medically suspected or confirmed case of New Influenza A(H1N1). This checklist combines two aspects of care: i) clinical management of the individual patient and ii) infection control measures to limit the spread of New influenza A(H1N1).

The checklist is not intended to be comprehensive. Additions and modifications to fit local practice and circumstances are encouraged.

WHO Patient Safety Checklists are practical and easy-to-use tools that highlight critical actions to be taken at vulnerable moments of care. They are produced in a format that can be referred to readily and repeatedly to ensure all essential actions are performed. WHO Patient Safety Checklists are not comprehensive protocols and are not intended to replace routine care.

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