



ESICM NEWSLETTER

Dear ESICM member,

As I am sure that you are aware, the pandemic related to influenza A novel H1N1 variant virus is becoming an increasing health problem, with an increasing number of critically ill admissions to Intensive Care. To date this has been mainly a problem in the Southern hemisphere and USA, Canada, Spain and the UK. We can be fairly confident that other European countries will soon start to see similar issues.

With any new disease or illness, there is always going to be a degree of uncertainty around the spread, the severity of the disease and the ultimate outcome. This uncertainty breeds fear and often inappropriate comments and thoughts.

We feel that it is important for the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine to be helping our members (and the wider community) in understanding what is happening, what can be done and also perhaps what we should be doing in the future. We have therefore set up a web based resource, linked to our home page that will become both a repository of information and also a Registry for cases admitted to Intensive Care. The URL for this site is <http://www.H1N1registry.com>. We hope that this repository will soon contain all the necessary and available information on this disease process. Please visit the site and also send to us any additional papers or information that you feel should be included. We would ask for you to send these documents by email through to myself at president@esicm.org.

One of the more important parts of this site is the online Registry for critically ill admissions related to H1N1 influenza. I would invite all of you as ESICM members to join in with this project and to include your patients in our Registry. We would hope that by including sufficient numbers of patients we would be able to acquire data that would help us in future planning for this (and other) pandemics and also help us in understanding how severity of presentation relates to outcome and also how we should manage and support these patients. There are now key individuals in most countries (below) who have agreed to act as national coordinators for this project. I would ask each of you to contact your National coordinator and get access to the registry through them so that you can include your patients. If any of you lives in a country that as of yet does not have a National coordinator, please contact me on the above email address and I will arrange for the necessary access details myself.

The current list of National coordinators is listed at the end of this email. If your country is not yet listed please contact us directly.

Despite the summer, these are times for action, and as intensivists we are used to be on the front line fighting for the health of our patients. We count on the collaboration of all.

With kindest regards

Rui Moreno
ESICM President

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