

# HOSPITALIZATION OF CHILDREN WITH INFLUENZA (H1N1) VIRUS IN THE CLINICAL HOSPITAL IN STIP, MACEDONIA

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**Background:** The disease burden of seasonal influenza in the pediatric population is generally attributed to a combination of immunologic naivety, prolonged virus shedding, and enhanced transmission opportunity in child-care and educational institutions.

**Aim:** To describe the clinical characteristics of children hospitalized with 2009 influenza A H1N1 infection in General Hospital of Stip.

**Methods:** We reviewed the medical reports of 11 children with pandemic H1N1 Influenza A hospitalized to the pediatric clinic of General Hospital of Stip. Between March to December 2012.

**Material:** All patients were laboratory-confirmed with 2012 influenza A(H1N1). The most frequent clinical presentations were influenza-like illness and wheezing exacerbation. Predisposing underlying illnesses were detected in 3 of the patients who have viral-induced asthma. Pneumonia diagnosed in 3 of all patients of whom 2 had a history of viral-induced asthma and the third was infant. More than two-thirds received treatment of antiviral or antibacterial or combination of antiviral and antibacterial. The median length of stay in hospital was 2,6 days. None of the children died or need admission in intensive care unit.

**Conclusions:** Despite the fact that 2012 outbreak of Influenza H1N1 did not cause serious disease or complications in pediatric population of Macedonia, the clinicians should maintain a high suspicion in children with febrile respiratory illness and promptly treat those with underlying risk factors.