

## **Influenza A/H1N1 (swine influenza)**

### **Clinical information**

H1N1 (previously referred to as 'swine flu') is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in April 2009 in Mexico and the United States of America (USA). Other countries, including New Zealand and Canada, now have confirmed cases of the disease.

The virus was originally referred to as "swine flu" because laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs in North America. However, further study has shown it to contain two genes from flu viruses that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia, avian genes and human genes. Scientists call this a "quadruple reassortant" virus. Further information may be found on the websites of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/swineflu\\_you.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/swineflu_you.htm)

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

### **Classification advice for ICD-10 and ICD-10-AM**

As this type of influenza is a newly identified disease, there is no unique code in the WHO International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Following advice received from the Update and Revision Committee (URC) of the WHO Family of International Classifications and the Australian Coding Standards Advisory Committee (CSAC), the following codes should be assigned for laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A/H1N1 in Australia:

J09 *Influenza due to identified avian influenza virus*

Z29.0 *Isolation*

For cases described as 'suspected' or 'probable', but not confirmed by laboratory testing, assign:

J11.1 *Influenza with other respiratory manifestations, virus not identified*

Z29.0 *Isolation*

It is envisaged that further development of category J09 *Influenza due to identified avian influenza virus*, will be undertaken by the URC in 2009, to widen the scope of the category at the three character level, and to develop unique codes at the fourth character level to identify these emerging strains of influenza virus.