

Investigation & management of possible human cases of avian influenza A/H5N1 (including returning travellers)



1 January 2009. Please check for updates at:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733851442?p=1160495617107

Criteria for classification:

CLINICAL

- a) Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and lower respiratory tract symptoms (cough or shortness of breath) or CXR findings of consolidation or ARDS
- or
- b) other severe / life-threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process

Additionally, patients must fulfil a condition in either category 1 or 2, below

EXPOSURE 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms

- (1) Close contact (within 1 metre) with live, dying or dead domestic poultry or wild birds, including live bird markets, in an area of the world affected by avian influenza A/H5N1, or with a confirmed A/H5N1 infected animal other than birds (e.g. cat or pig).¹ Refer to full list of countries/territories.²
- (2) Close contact (providing care/touching/speaking distance within 1 metre) with human case(s) of:
 - severe unexplained respiratory illness
 - unexplained illness resulting in death from listed areas.²

Criteria not met

Unlikely to be Influenza A/H5N1. Treat and investigate as clinically indicated. If admitted to hospital, consider HPA protocol for other undiagnosed serious illness.⁴

Criteria met

Does clinical severity warrant hospitalisation?
Discuss with HPU.

Treat and investigate as indicated. Suggest non-urgent molecular testing for influenza.

Avian influenza is unlikely if clinical severity does not require hospitalisation. Follow up by primary care team/ HPU for further two days, preferably by phone, to confirm recovery/improvement.

The patient should be asked to consider voluntary isolation during this period. Isolation for contacts is not recommended.

To complete clinical evaluation, a 10ml blood specimen, 28 days after onset of symptoms should be obtained and sent to HPA Influenza Reference Laboratory at Centre for Infections (Cfi), Colindale (HPU to coordinate).

If patient deteriorates

- [1] Undertake H5N1 testing and other laboratory investigations
- [2] Start oseltamivir treatment as soon as possible³
- [3] Enter case in AIMS database.

H5N1 NEGATIVE

Treat and investigate as clinically indicated. Consider HPA protocol for other undiagnosed serious illness.⁴

H5N1 POSITIVE

Regional Lab informs local HPU.
Local HPU informs Cfi Duty Doctor to agree next actions and activate the escalation procedures.

Infection Control & Reporting

The following precautions should be taken before continuing with the initial assessment.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)
Patient: to wear surgical mask
staff: to wear surgical mask, gown or plastic apron and gloves

Location
Community/ primary care: at patient's home if possible; if not, away from communal areas
Hospital: side room

The following precautions should be taken once the decision to admit has been made:

Strict Respiratory Isolation
Staff PPE: correctly fitted FFP3 mask, gown, gloves and eye protection
Patient location: strict respiratory isolation, preferably in negative pressure room

Inform local HPU immediately; HPU to inform HPA Cfi Duty Doctor tel: 020 8200 4400
Northern Ireland inform CCDC, CCDC to inform CDSC-NI
tel: 028 9026 3765
Inform hospital infection control & occupational health.

Follow SOP for Notification Cascade
Guidance for incidents where a diagnosis of avian influenza is under consideration.



Footnotes:

- 1 Full WHO case definitions are available at www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/case_definition2006_08_29/en/index.html.
- 2 Refer to OIE website for full list of countries/territories http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm
- 3 Standard treatment dose of oseltamivir in adults (age >13 years old) is 75mg bd unless there is expert advice to increase the dose. (<http://www.bnf.org/bnfi/bnfi/current/119743.htm>)
- 4 Refer to HPA protocol for undiagnosed serious illness: a microbiological approach to investigation (http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1202115613395?p=1160495617061)

For full avian influenza guidance see www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/avian/default.html.

In case of uncertainty, discuss with local Health Protection Unit.