Dear Dr. X*.

We read with interest your paper:

(citation)*

We are conducting a systematic review of observational studies of antivirals for influenza and are contacting you in the hope of obtaining a copy of the patient data you analyzed, as we would like to conduct a further analysis of these data considering the time-dependent nature of antiviral exposure. Would this be possible? We would of course acknowledge your help in any papers or reports arising from this research. We recognize the need to protect patient privacy and hope that the data can be deidentified before sharing. Our protocol can be obtained from the following website:

Mark Jones, Rokuro Hama. Effect of oseltamivir on mortality in treatment of 2009A/H1N1 influenza patients. PROSPERO 2012:CRD42012002245 Available from http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.asp?ID=CRD42012002245

The variables we are particularly interested in for each patient are:

Patient ID

Hospital ID

Age and Sex of patient

Underlying Co-morbidities

Date of onset of symptoms (fever, or other symptoms in the case of no fever)

Date of first presentation at a medical facility

Date of admission to hospital

Antiviral treatment: start date (with time), type (oseltamivir/zanamivir/other/none), dose, duration

Antipyretic treatment: date, type (paracetamol/ibuprofen/aspirin/other NSAID) and dose

Corticosteroid treatment: date, type and dose

Date of admission to ICU

Date (with time) of start of artificial ventilation

Hospital outcome (death/discharge/unknown)

Date of death/discharge

Any other variable that is associated with hospital outcome

Yours sincerely,

CDM