

Dear A&E Consultant

Potential case of Avian Flu

You may already know about the patient who was in A&E on Saturday with a fever, cough and breathless two days after returning from China. He was in the A&E waiting room for three hours and then he had nebulisers and a chest X-ray. The A&E SHO referred him to the RMO who admitted him to the Infectious Diseases ward. The ID Ward sister suspected avian flu or SARS, but fortunately he has an ordinary pneumonia which is now improving.

I am worried about what might have happened if this had been a real case of Avian Flu or SARS. The A&E staff did not seem to consider these infections.

I enclose the Health Protection Agency's algorithm for managing patients who may have Avian Flu. We urgently need a proper procedure for any such patients in A&E.

Your sincerely

Infection Control Sister.