

## The Evolution and Complications of the Influenza During Covid-19 Pandemic

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**Abstract.** *Seasonal influenza coupled with COVID-19, infection with the virus SARS-CoV2, represents a dual challenge to the primary care. As well as this, the staff in primary health care, ambulatory centers and hospitals are intensively involved in the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of people with the flu during the peak periods of the disease. In Romania, in primary healthcare, the diagnosis is based more on clinical criteria and not always by determining the etiology of the respiratory infection. The use of rapid tests in the diagnosis of respiratory infections has increased in the last year. Given the current increase in cases of both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza, early diagnosis is also of great importance to enable efficient use of healthcare resources in primary care. Patients with influenza and risk factors should be monitored for complications, upper respiratory infections, secondary pneumonia and acute cardio and cerebrovascular events. Additionally, vaccination should be very strong recommended in patients with chronic diseases.*

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Influenza which occurs in seasonal epidemics is a public health problem due to its severity and consequences. Seasonal influenza coupled with COVID-19, infection with the virus SARS-CoV2, represents a dual challenge to the primary care [1]. Influenza complications occasionally require absenteeism from school or work, hospitalization, while other times they can cause death. Worldwide, seasonal influenza infection is estimated to result in approximately 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness and approximately 290,000 to 650,000 deaths [2]. In developed countries, most flu-related deaths occur among people over 65 years old regardless of comorbidities [2, 3]. It should be noted that seasonal infections cause an increase in the level of absenteeism of employees/pupils/students having socio-economic implications. As well as this, the staff in primary health care, ambulatory centers and hospitals are intensively involved in the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of people with the flu during the peak periods of the disease [2].