

**8,700 eligible physicians**

**Stage 1:** simple random sample of 3,600 (41.4%) eligible physicians

**3,600 sampled physicians**

**Stage 2:** simple random sample of 1 eligible practice location per physician

**3,600 physician practice locations**

**Stage 3:** random sample of 10 visits per physician practice location:

- 5 visits negative for all syndromes
- 1 visit positive for each of the 5 syndromes (fever, gastrointestinal, neurological, rash, and respiratory including influenza-like illness).
  - For each syndrome, the sample of syndrome-positive visit was further stratified by ICD-9 code.

Exclusion was used to ensure each patient was sampled only once.

Syndrome-negative visits were frequency-matched on month to syndrome positive visits to avoid seasonal bias.

**36,000 visits to be verified**