

1 **Supplementary file**

2 **Table S1: Univariate median regression showing factors affecting hospital LOS (hrs).**

Variables	Intervention (n=2,162)		Control (n=2,039)	
	Coefficient (95% CI)	P-value	Coefficient (95% CI)	P-value
Female vs male	-1.6 (-10.4 to 7.2)	0.72	1.3 (-7.2 to 9.9)	0.76
Age (years)	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)	<0.01	1.3 (1.1 to 1.5)	<0.01
Hospital				
A	Ref		Ref	
B	-3.9 (-14.7 to 7.0)	0.49	-10.6 (-21.1 to -0.2)	0.05
C	24.7 (13.6 to 35.8)	<0.01	24.8 (14.2 to 35.5)	<0.01
Time of day of admission				
7 a.m.-7 p.m. vs 7 p.m.-7 a.m.	-0.4 (-9.2 to 8.4)	0.93	-4.1 (-12.4 to 4.5)	0.35
Day of week of admission				
Weekdays vs Weekends	4.9 (-4.8 to 14.7)	0.32	7.6 (-1.6 to 16.9)	0.10
Source of referral				
ED vs Other ¹	-60.3 (-92.9 to -27.7)	<0.01	-23.1 (-39.2 to -7.0)	<0.01
Intensive care admission				
Yes vs No	132.9 (117.3 to 148.5)	<0.01	115.1 (93.3 to 136.8)	<0.01
Discharged before receiving a test result²				
Yes vs No	-70.6 (-84.4 to -56.8)	<0.01	NA	
Mode of separation				
Discharged by hospital	Ref		Ref	
Transferred/discharged at own risk	43.9 (30.2 to 57.7)	<0.01	36.2 (21.3 to 51.1)	<0.01
Died in hospital	133.6 (112.0 to 154.7)	<0.01	3.3 (-19.8 to 26.3)	0.78
Charlson comorbidity index	15.5 (12.9 to 18.0)	<0.01	17.4 (15.4 to 19.4)	<0.01
Principal diagnosis				
Influenza and pneumonia	Ref		Ref	
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	-2.1 (-13.6 to 9.5)	0.73	-14.1 (-23.7 to -4.4)	<0.01
Acute upper respiratory infections	-60.4 (-83.2 to -37.7)	<0.01	-74.4 (-89.0 to -59.9)	<0.01
Other acute lower respiratory infections ³	-32.1 (-52.7 to -11.5)	<0.01	-53.3 (-69.7 to -36.8)	<0.01
Lung diseases due to external agents ⁴	59.1 (94.5 to 141.3)	<0.01	6.9 (-7.1 to 20.9)	0.33
Other respiratory diseases ⁵	117.9 (94.5 to 141.3)	<0.01	-19.7 (-31.2 to -8.1)	<0.01

3 ED, Emergency Department; ¹Medical practitioner other than private practice, outpatient, day procedure centre, community
4 health; ²Rapid PCR or multiplex PCR, ³ICD-10-AM: J20-J22; ⁴ICD-10-AM: J60-J70; ⁵ICD-10-AM: J30-J39; J85-J84; J85-
5 J86; J90-J94 and J95-J99. NA, Not applicable.