Reviewer's report

Title: Perioperative RSV or influenza infection increases length of stay and risk of ICU admission in children: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2011

Reviewer: Kent Thorburn

Reviewer's report:

The authors are to be congratulated on a succinct manuscript with clarity and clinical relevance.

It is good to see data confirming what antecedental clinical experience has suggested.

Minor points:

What number of PICU admission in each group ("cases" and "controls") were actually planned PICU admissions prior to surgery. As this will impact on the PICU admission rate and lead to misinterpretation that most of the PICU admissions were caused by disease severity, when they could just be pre-arranged.

Page 4: 2003 literature (i.e. 8 years ago) does not qualify as "recent research" for me.

Table 2: "Risk factor" - specify / define.

Table 3: "Peri/Postop events" - specify / define.

Page 8 (in Discussion): "perioperative complications" - once again specify / define.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.