Reviewer's report

Title: Central European Vaccination Advisory Group (CEVAG) guidance statement on recommendations for influenza vaccination in children

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Reviewer: Catherine WEIL-OLIVIER

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p2, l 18: Special attention is needed for children up to 60 months of age
p3, l 17 all children from the age of 6 months up to 18 years
p4 l 5 attack rate of 30%; l 7: during the 2003–2004 influenza season
p5 l 2/3: Due to overlap of symptoms with other respiratory diseases infection, influenza in children is easily misdiagnosed [13].;
p5 l 4/8: suggestion as follows: Typical symptoms of early influenza include mainly sudden high fever, cough and absence of rhinitis. Children do not always show these symptoms. Whilst high fever is a prominent sign of influenza, unlike adults, many of them treated for influenza in the outpatient setting present with rhinitis during the early phase of the illness, making clinical diagnosis confounding with a "cold" in this age group.
p6 l 7/8: suggestion includes populations with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women
p6 l 11/13: suggestion : Despite those recommendations , young children often only receive one injection of influenza vaccine per season. A single dose of the vaccine is appropriate for primovaccination from 9 years of age.
p8: it should be added that under 3 years of age, a half dose is required per injection and that an annual booster dose is recommended everywhere.
p8 l 20/23: suggestion Amongst the evidence to consider before implementing any universal vaccination scheme, other than the disease burden, some issues need consideration : the safety of the vaccine to the recipient and to the whole population, the expectation of significant public health benefits with a demonstration of cost-effectiveness; l 24: benefit on the community by vaccinating healthy children, mostly in school age; l 25: ...found vaccination potentially beneficial to the children
p10 l 27: Interestingly, 48% of children received the first dose of influenza vaccine
p13 l 11...have an acceptable tolerability; please add that a higher rate of vaccination in HCP is also required: a stronger motivation of HCP would enhance the vaccination of children.