Reviewer's report

Title: Influenza virus infection among pediatric patients reporting diarrhea and influenza-like illness

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2009

Reviewer: Stephen Lambert

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The Authors should provide figures for virus identification comparing throat swabs and nose swabs. It would be of particular interest if nose (site?) swabs were as sensitive as throat swabs.
2. Details of the nasal swab need to be provided: were specimens collected from just inside the nares or was the swab pushed into the mid-turbinate region.
3. Details of the Indonesian Pediatric Diarrhea Network need to be provided: number of sites, number of sites that contributed specimens to the study, spread of sites (do they geographically cover and represent all of Indonesia?)
4. More detail of what upper respiratory tract swabs were used, and how they were handled after collection, is required. Was viral transport medium used? How were specimens transported to the laboratory?
5. Was a central laboratory used for PCR and viral culture, or were specimens tested at a number of regional (how many?) laboratories using the same protocol? How were specimens transported to the laboratory/laboratories? The Discussion raises transport time as a potential issue for cell culture negativity, but no detail is provided in the Results for the delay from collection to testing for either PCR or culture? Where specimens stored prior to testing – if so, how?
6. The Results don’t specify if any PCR negative stool specimens were positive by cell culture.
7. Detail or reference needs to be provided in the Methods as to how A/B and H/N typing was performed.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. There is no reference to Table 2 in the text.
2. Given two methods are used to identify influenza viruses (PCR, cell culture), sentences in the Results, such as the one following, need to clearly state the method of identification referred to (in this case, PCR):
   Both influenza A and B viruses were detected in stool specimens, including one A (H1N1), three A (H3N2), and 17 B viruses.

Discretionary Revisions
1. The title for Table 1 and Table 2 are the same, and data from Table 1 are
repeated in Table 2. Table 1 and Table 2 should be combined for simplicity.

**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.