Reviewer's report

Title: Current crisis or artifact of surveillance: insights into rebound chlamydia rates from dynamic modelling

Version: 1 Date: 15 October 2009

Reviewer: David Fisman

Reviewer's report:

I commend the authors for their well thought-out and thorough approach to this important problem. I agree with the authors that it is unnecessary to develop a highly behavior-structured model for the purposes laid out here, though undoubtedly another reviewer will suggest that they do so. The variance-weighting approach to partner change implicit in this approach is more than adequate for the purposes of reproducing observed trends at a population level.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I find little to criticize in the substance of this paper, though it is a bit agrammatical in places. The text needs revision for this reason. However, I think these authors have done a great job translating biomathematics into plain English, and the topic and findings are of great importance.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The projections described here would be strengthened if they could be validated against population-based estimates of pelvic inflammatory disease incidence, which should (theoretically) be available in a jurisdiction with a single third-party payor like Saskatchewan. However, such validation probably represents a separate, stand-alone project and if such data are not immediately available that does not diminish the value of this manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests