Author's response to reviews

Title: Relationship between the population incidence of febrile convulsions in young children in Sydney, Australia and seasonal epidemics of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, 2003-2010: a time series analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr McVernon,

Thank you for accepting our manuscript MS: 1480339953517513 “Relationship between the population incidence of febrile convulsions in young children in Sydney, Australia and seasonal epidemics of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, 2003-2010: a time series analysis.”

The following is a detailed point by point outline of the changes we have made for the final proof:

General Changes
- All highlighting has been removed
- Line numbers have been removed
- Extra carriage returns between paragraphs have been removed
- Font sizes have been adjusted to match the *BMC Infectious Diseases* template

Title Page
- The NSW Department of Health has recently changed title to the NSW Ministry of Health and has been updated in the affiliations
- The affiliations of each author have been written out in full resulting in a second Ministry address being added
- Paul Middleton is also affiliated with the SPHCM at UNSW, this has been added
- Phone number for corresponding author was updated

Abstract (Pages 2 and 3)
- In the Methods paragraph the text: “ED presentations and ambulance dispatches for ‘convulsions’” replaces the text: “ED presentations assigned a provisional diagnosis of ‘convulsions’ and urgent ambulance dispatches for ‘fitting and convulsions’”
- In the final sentence of the first paragraph of the Results section the text: “during the epidemic of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus” replaces the text: “in the 2009 pandemic influenza year”

Page 5
- In the last paragraph, the text: “(which became the NSW Ministry of Health after the study period)” has been added following the text “NSW Department of Health”.

Page 11
- “Insert Figure 1 about here” has been removed

Table 1 (Page 12)
- The title has been updated to be more concise “Table 1. Lag analysis: change in incidence rates /100,000 population for Ambulance and ED convulsions in children <6 years associated with a 1/100,000 population increase in all ages ED influenza-like illness and bronchiolitis in children <3 years”
- All vertical lines were removed
- Column titles were made more concise
- Cells were then realigned
Table 2 (Page 13)
• The title has been updated to be more concise “Table 1. Final model: change in incidence rates /100,000 population for Ambulance and ED convulsions in children <6 years associated with a 1/100,000 population increase in all ages ED influenza-like illness and bronchiolitis in children <3 years”
• All vertical lines were removed
• Column titles were made more concise
• Cells were then realigned
• A typographical error was discovered in this process: the 2 parameter estimates for ED Bronchiolitis were transposed. This has been rectified. The parameter estimates were reported correctly in the Abstract and Results and were not required to be changed

Page 14
• “Insert Figure 2 about here” has been removed
• “Insert Figure 3 about here” has been removed

References (Pages 23 and 24)
• A new functioning link was supplied for the report “Investigation into febrile reactions in young children following 2010 seasonal trivalent influenza vaccination: status report as at 2 July 2010 (updated 24 September 2010)” and the accessed date was updated
• The other two references including URLs were tested and the accessed dates were updated

Figures
• Figures 1, 2 and 3 have been cropped further

Thank you once again for accepting our manuscript.

Yours sincerely

Ben Polkinghorne
25/10/2011