Reviewer's report

**Title:** Influenza vaccination of healthcare workers: a case-control study of its effect on laboratory-confirmed, hospital-acquired influenza among patients

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 September 2011

**Reviewer:** Helen Maltezou

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting study, however several suggestions should be taken under consideration, before a final decision is made.

1. Abstract, page 3, background, line 1: please correct to "acute-care hospitals".
2. Abstract, page 3, conclusions, line 1: please instead of "high proportion" change to "more than 35%". Overall, 35% vaccination rate is not a high rate!
4. Same paragraph: please clarify that these studies (4,5) concern studies in long-term care facilities, same for study [6].
5. Background, page 4: please mention here the difficulties for conducting a similar study in acute-care hospitals because of the rapid turn-over of patients.
6. Results: please provide the total number of hospitalized patients, so the rate of nosocomial infection can be estimated (%).
7. Discussion, page 9, paragraph 2: please rewrite the sentence "Moreover, in a simulation study...", it is difficult for the reader to follow the meaning.
8. Conclusions, page 11, first line: please change "high proportion" to "more than 35%". Again, 35% is not a high proportion.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.