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:** 24 October 2011

**Reviewer:** Holly Seale

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors report the findings from a case control study undertaken to explore the effectiveness of influenza vaccination on lab confirmed hospital acquired influenza amongst patients.

Minor essential revisions

**Abstract**

1. The first line in the results section should be updated to: ‘In total 55 patients were analysed, of which 11….

**Introduction**

2. It should be highlighted that the papers cited in the first paragraph of the intro (Ref- 3-5) are not hospital based studies. They are actually studies conducted looking at the effectiveness of the flu vaccine in preventing disease spread in elderly populations residing in aged care facilities. Very different settings and population groups to what you have studied.

**Methods**

3. What % of units at the hospital does the 36 represent? Were they settings in which there was a higher risk of respiratory virus transmission?

4. In regards to vaccine receipt, did you rely on self report or did you seek confirmation of vaccination?

**Results**

1. Did any patients with ILI refuse to participate?

2. When you refer to HCW vaccination, is this only relating to Physicians and nursing staff? If so, are there any ancillary and allied health staff that work in the units? These categories of staff may also been responsible for disease transmission. Did you record their vaccine coverage rates?

3. Did you document the number of visitors that these patients had? This may have been another source of exposure outside the patient/HCW source

There are a number of grammatical errors throughout the paper which need correcting.
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.