Reviewer’s report

Title: Incidence and risk factors for influenza-like-illness in the UK: Online surveillance using Flusurvey

Version: 3
Date: 13 January 2014

Reviewer: Matthew Biggerstaff

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have satisfactorily addressed or responded to many of my comments.

Minor Essential Revisions
* The categories in Figure 1 are not mutually exclusive (18–45 and 45–64).
* Appendix Table 1 appears to be missing the row headers.

Minor compulsory revisions
* While I understand the authors’ response that children have underlying conditions and could smoke, I think it’s worth assessing if there is any interaction between age, the risk factors, and the report of at least one ILI in the model. A 17 year old smoker may not be the same as a 40 or 60 year old smoker since they haven’t been smoking for as long. Additionally, a lot of the variables in the model, including contact with children, are a bit difficult to understand in the context of someone aged 0–17 since they are a child. It would seem unusual if there were a large percentage of children who reported they had no contact with children. I think it’s at least worth running this model excluding children to see if it changes any of the results significantly. If it doesn’t, then interaction by age isn’t a major issue, but at least you’ve assessed it.

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.