Reviewer's report

Title: Occurrence of invasive pneumococcal disease and number of excess cases due to influenza

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2005

Reviewer: David Price

Reviewer's report:

General

I think this is an important piece of work examining the association between national data on influenza in Sweden with accurate data on invasive pneumococcal disease.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

There is no real discussion of potential study weaknesses i.e. the ecological fallacy and this needs to be addressed in the discussion. I think a discussion of what other work might be done would also be helpful although this is not essential.

Other work in the area should be considered - as it shows a similar link with data collected in a different way:


Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received research funding and support to attend conferences from Bayer who make respiratory antibiotics