Reviewer's report

Title: The United States and Canada as a coupled epidemiological system: an example from hepatitis A

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2007

Reviewer: Roland Diel

Reviewer's report:

General

The manuscript provides a very interesting calculation of the influence of travel-related hepatitis A prevalence in Canada. The methodological limitations (neglected cohort effects) are clearly described in the discussion section. The mathematic model looks sound from an epidemiologic point of view and the results are clear.

There are just a very few comments left (see below).

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

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

Page 4, second para, line 4: Unpublished data should not be cited. Please, choose another reference or delete this half-sentence!

Page 5, second para, line 6: Personal communications do not provide any evidence. Please delete!

Page 6, Methods section, line 6: The sentence stating with “Although 70%...” should be placed after the following sentence that describes possible clinical symptoms.

Section "Conclusions": The part of the sentence referring to the “anectodal evidence” given by a personal communication should be deleted.

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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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**