Reviewer's report

Title: Invasive Pneumococcal Infections Among Persons Without Underlying Medical Conditions: Implications for Prevention Strategies

Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2008

Reviewer: Paul William Roche

Reviewer's report:

This is a valuable examination of invasive pneumococcal infections in adults without underlying medical conditions, for whom pneumococcal immunisation with PPV23 is usually not recommended.

The authors make use of comprehensive population based data, health care registries and vital statistics to assess all cause, in-hospital mortality. The recognition that 47% of adults 18 to 64 year with IPI did not qualify for PPV23 immunisation because they did not have a recognised co-morbidity is an important finding and provides a rationale for extending universal pneumococcal immunisation to the over 50 year age group. The cost effectiveness of this approach would need to be examined.

This manuscript could be published without revision

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