Reviewer's report

Title: Private doctors’ practices, knowledge, and attitude regarding reporting of communicable diseases: A national survey in Taiwan

Version: 1 Date: 5 August 2008

Reviewer: Heath Kelly

Reviewer’s report:

This is a simple well-conducted study highlighting problems with disease notification in Taiwan. The problems are similar to those in other jurisdictions where this issue has been investigated.

1. The discussion introduces and reiterates results and repeats points made in the introduction. A more concise discussion would improve the readability of the manuscript.

2. Results included in the discussion should be placed in the results section. Where claims are made for significant differences, these should be specific and supported by data and a p-value.

3. What were the 10 diseases included in this study (p14, 'ten item list')? Please include in the methods or note these can be found in table 3. What is 'regular influenza'?

4. The authors use EV71 as an example of the importance of notification. Is EV71 notifiable in Taiwan?

5. Measles and tetanus are said to be 'relatively mild' diseases (p13). While this may be true for rubella and VZV, it is hard to argue for measles and tetanus.

6. Table 1 heading does not include reporters and non-reporters. Please report p-values rather than noting 'statistical significance'. Age <= 40 13.2% vs 13.6% is reported as significant.

7. Please report exact p-values for all tables.

7.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'