Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of the Introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine on Immunization Coverage Among Infants

Version: 2 Date: 20 October 2005

Reviewer: Rebecca R Prevots

Reviewer’s report:

General

This paper presents a thorough analysis of the impact of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on immunization coverage among infants following the introduction of this vaccine in 2000. In light of the continued addition of new vaccines to the infant immunization schedule, the ongoing evaluation of the impact of new vaccines and particularly added vaccine-related injections is important. The use of two outcome measures (overall up to date and days spent unimmunized) allows a more thorough analysis of the issue.

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

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)

1) on p15 the authors state that the demographic characteristics of the study population were unlikely to have changed dramatically during the time of the study. However, because changes in coverage of insurance plans could have a big effect on the study population, the authors may wish to clarify that no such changes occurred.

2) The authors state that the study population comprised privately insured children with good access to health care and the results are thus not generalizable. However, the authors may wish to note that evaluation of the introduction of IPV in WIC populations also found similar results - no impact of the addition of another injection.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests