Reviewer's report

Title: A survey of pediatricians' attitudes regarding influenza immunization in children

Version: 1 Date: 28 May 2008

Reviewer: Matthew Daley

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The authors report the results of a survey with a 21% response rate. Although it can be difficult to motivate physicians to respond to surveys, and response rates to physician surveys appear to be decreasing over the past decade, this low of a response rate has the potential to introduce substantial response bias.
2. I appreciate the authors including a copy of their survey instrument. One question (#13) appears not to be a "balanced" question, given that physicians are told "you are already asking a number of questions" and "how much more burdensome would it be..." The question itself seems to imply that asking about wheezing or asthma should not be very burdensome.
3. I would suggest that data comparing physician report of vaccination rates versus CDC rates does not have a great deal of value. Physicians often over-report immunization rates; this may not be because they are misguided, but because they easily think of all of the children they vaccinated, but the children who never came into clinic during influenza vaccination season are not recalled as easily. I would suggest placing less emphasis on these findings in the abstract and text.

Minor Essential Revisions
4. The response rate should be noted in the abstract.
5. I would suggest that the abstract should mention the 2008 recommendations to immunize all children age 6 months to 18 years.
6. I would suggest that the methods section should mention the analytic methods used.
7. The results section should be in the past tense, rather than a mixture of present tense and past tense.

Discretionary Revisions
8. I found the reference to vaccination in "multiple settings" confusing. It appears to mean "vaccination at multiple types of visits."
9. How were free text responses analyzed?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.