Reviewer's report

Title: Characterizing hospital workers' willingness to report to duty in an influenza pandemic through threat- and efficacy-based assessment

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2010

Reviewer: Holly Seale

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and timely study- the authors should be congratulated for their work.

There are only a couple of minor revisions which should be made

Introduction

1. First paragraph, page 4: The authors refer to the situation in the Southern Hemisphere but only cite a paper which was undertaken in the United States. I think it would be more appropriate to seek out published literature on the impact of the pandemic from authors actually located in the Southern Hemisphere such as Australia.

2. Second paragraph, page 4: I feel that the authors could include a wider scope of the literature in regards to HCW willingness to work. There have been many studies published that show higher willingness rates especially in Asian populations (Tam DK, Lee S: Impact of SARS on avian influenza preparedness in healthcare workers. Infection 2007, 35(5):320-325.)

3. Fourth paragraph, page 5: I think the authors should revisit the statement about a lack of survey based studies- I think in the last couple of years there has been an influx of studies conducted in this field. They may not all adhere to a framework style approach- however, I think it is important to show that you are aware of the literature.

Methods

1. Page 5: Given that you list the demographic questions in table one, I don’t think they need to be repeated in the text.

Results

1. Can you please comment on how representative the survey sample was in comparison to the body of staff in the hospital?

2. Can you also elaborate on the non-clinical category for example: did this cover cleaning and catering staff?

3. Were all departments/wards included?

4. Can the authors please comment on:
   • The relationship between length of time working at the hospital and willingness to attend work.
• Whether seniority/position in the hospital impacted on attendance i.e. difference between nurse unit manager vs. registered nurse

5. How did you measure the participant’s knowledge about pandemic events? Previous studies have found that hospital staff has low levels of awareness about what a pandemic is.

Discussion

1. Can the comments expand on the number of studies used in the discussion- I feel that the literature is mainly limited to studies conducted in the United States.

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