Author's response to reviews

Title: Burden of paediatric influenza in the European Union: a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Victorino Silvestre
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Dear Dr Silvestre,

On behalf of my fellow authors, I am pleased to re-submit the following original article paper entitled 'Burden of paediatric influenza in the European Union: a systematic review.' for your consideration for publication in *BMC Public Health*. We thank you for providing editorial feedback on our paper. We have resubmitted the revised manuscript using tracked changes to highlight where we’ve made updates in line with the editorial comments.

Specifically, here are the reviewer comments and the actions taken:

1) Please include a Methods section in the Abstract. The abstracts of manuscripts submitted to the BMC-series should be structured as follows:

   - Background: This should place the study into the context of the current knowledge in its field and list the purpose of the work; in other words, the authors should summarize why they carried out their research.

   - Methods: This should summarize how the study was performed and mention the different techniques employed. It should also include details of any statistical tests employed.

   - Results: This section should describe the main findings of the study.

   - Conclusions: A brief summary of the content of the manuscript and the potential implications of its results.

   **Authors’ action/response:**
We had already presented the methods within the abstract, but we had not provided a sub-heading to indicate as such. We have now added the sub-header "Methods" to the abstract to indicate the part of the abstract which presents the methods.

2) Please move the ‘Methods’ section after the ‘Background’ section.

Authors’ action/response:

We have moved the Methods section of the manuscript after the Background section and before the Results section of the manuscript.

3) Please adhere to PRISMA guidelines when reporting Systematic Reviews (http://www.prisma-statement.org/).

Authors’ action/response:

As specified in my email to you on 13th April 2012, I can confirm that our literature review was conducted in line with the PRISMA guidelines. As such, and as previously discussed with you via email, we have not made any changes to the manuscript in response to this comment.

This work has not been previously published, nor is it under consideration for publication elsewhere. We feel that this manuscript represents an important contribution to the literature. The findings of this literature review may benefit public health officials, policy makers, healthcare professionals, and the public who have a stake in pediatric influenza policy. It may serve as a knowledge base for the ongoing pediatric influenza vaccination policy debate in Europe.

All authors have read and approved of submission of this manuscript to *BMC Public Health*. All authors on this publication contributed to the study concept and data interpretation. This research was conducted as part of a fund provided by MedImmune, LLC, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA and the publication of the results was not contingent on the sponsor’s approval or censorship of the manuscript. Dr Rycroft is a full-time employee of RTI Health Solutions. Dr Antonova and Dr Ambrose are full-time employees of MedImmune, LLC. Dr Principi has received funding through his institution to conduct studies for MedImmune and has received advisory board fees from MedImmune, LLC. Dr Heikkinen has served as a consultant for MedImmune, LLC.
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Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript, and we very much look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Rycroft

On behalf of co-authors