Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 4 May 2012

Reviewer: Catherine WEIL-OLIVIER

Reviewer's report:

- Minor Essential Revisions
  Comments are inserted in the text
- Discretionary Revisions
  Please consider the following revisions:
  1- Abstract:
     Introduction: Alphabetic order for the countries participating.
     Methods: any details would be welcome about the meaning of "structured" and the retained 53 publications: are the 53 retained publications all the European data published during the selected years? If not, how were they selected? representativeness of northern and southern regions of the EU: they are mainly western European countries / regions
  2- Methods
     P8,§5 : please a full wording is useful for “HRQoL”
     Globally, to better understand and rely on the results presented later on, the inclusion / exclusion criteria should be more clearly specified once.
  3- Results
     Comments are inserted in the text
  4- Discussion
     The authors, based on this interesting overview of the European burden of pediatric Influenza, should consider the broad scope of actions against influenza in children without only targeting vaccination policy in this range of age (though the most potentially active prevention by far). The benefit of influenza rapid diagnosis testing at bedside with reliable tests (high specificity and good sensitivity) as an epidemiological tool of screening and guiding clinical decisions, the potential use of antivirals as a useful part of care would prevent this article, sponsored by the vaccine industry to appear so clearly oriented.
     Authors should comment on the selection of 9 countries among the 27 Member States in Europe as finally only 5 in 9 of the selected countries reported published studies (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands): authors should justify the inclusion of those not reporting and the exclusion of the other European Member 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.