Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of physician's recommendation on seasonal influenza immunization in children with chronic diseases

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Version: 5 Date: 30 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Roma, 30/10/12

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the re-revised manuscript entitled “The effect of physician’s recommendation on seasonal influenza immunization in children with chronic diseases” by E. Pandolfi, M.G. Marino, E. Carloni, M. Romano, F. Gesualdo, P Borgia, R. Carloni, A Guarino, A. Giannattasio, A.E. Tozzi to be considered for publication in BMC Public Health.

We re-reviewed the manuscript according to the Associate Editor’s comments and modified the manuscript as requested. Particularly:

1. In the discussion and conclusions, there are several statements that refer to increased frequency of recommendations by health providers may substantially change uptake (see top of page 11 and top of page 13). However, this contradicts the results in Table 4 which shows that recommendations by >1 provider was not associated with increased likelihood of immunization compared with any recommendation. So, the important conclusion is that a physician recommendation is important, not that multiple recommendations will achieve a better uptake. We modified the sentence according your suggestion to better clarify this crucial concept.

With the sentence “However, since the number of health providers in contact with families of children with chronic diseases is high, it may well be that recommendation toward influenza immunization may be provided at multiple levels in other settings” we referred to the ability to explore this mode in other settings.

2. For some reason the manuscript is in landscape orientation, instead of portrait.
   Accomplished

Accomplished

4. Page 6 Methods. In the red text near the top, please clarify what is meant by the "long term"? A patient aged 6 months could not be considered to have long-term follow-up. Do you mean "All enrolled patients were in the routine care of the clinic?" Or was there some eligibility criterion applied about their care status.

5. Accomplished

6. Page 18 Table 2: please be consistent with display of zeros in confidence intervals - should be "0.0".

Accomplished

7. Please be consistent in tables - use periods (".") instead of comma ("," for decimal places.

Accomplished

8. Table 4. "PR" needs to be explained in a footnote or spelled out in full in the column heading.

Accomplished

We hope that now the manuscript is suitable for publication. Thanking you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

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