Reviewer's report

Title: Is Healthcare Workers' Intention to Vaccinate Related to their Knowledge, Beliefs and Attitudes? A Systematic Review.

Version: 2 Date: 16 July 2012

Reviewer: Roger Thomas

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision

1. The search ended 3 years ago (June 2009) and needs updating.

2. For data bases the authors could consider adding Biological Abstracts, Science Citation Index and then using the "related articles" feature of Pub Med.

3. The search terms for health care workers need expanding. An example from a Cochrane Review on vaccination for HCW is Thomas RE, Jefferson T, Lasserson TJ. Influenza vaccination for healthcare workers who work with the elderly, and the search terms they used were:

   Topic=((flu* or influenza*) and (vaccin* or immunis* or immuniz* or inoculat*))
   AND Topic=((health or healthcare or health care or allied health or hospital or medical) and (personnel or worker* or provider* or employee* or staff)) or doctor* or physician* or clinician* or paramedic* or nurse* or (nursing and (staff or personnel or auxiliar* or assist*)) or long term care or residential care or nursing home* or (hospital* and (aged or elderly or old or geriatric*))

4. The SIGN search strategy for observational studies could also be used:

   1 epidemiologic studies/2 exp case-control studies/3 exp Cohort Studies/4 case control.tw.5 (cohort adj (study or studies)).tw.6 cohort analy*.tw.7 (follow up adj (study or studies)).tw.8 (observational adj (study or studies)).tw.9 longitudinal.tw.10 retrospective.tw.11 cross sectional.tw.12 Cross-Sectional Studies/13 or/1-12

5. The kappas for agreement between reviewers are low. Please consider how they could be improved.

6. Although the authors state that they can provide no synthesis of the studies, consideration should be given to grouping those with a theme in common (e.g. knowledge of vaccine contraindications).

7. Lists of associations are presented but their interpretation is not discussed or synthesised.

I regret that the search issues need to be addressed before more progress can be made with the review.
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'