Reviewer’s report

Title: Information and informed consent in infant vaccinations

Version: 2 Date: 20 December 2013

Reviewer: Patrick Cashman

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Title: Information and informed consent in infant vaccinations

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2013

Reviewer: Patrick Cashman

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions

Abstract
1: The paper is critical of Health Care Providers “not one health care provider informed parents that their child was receiving non-mandatory vaccines”. Are the providers Nurses or doctors or other designation?

2: Abstract begins with a description of clinics vaccinating the children but it is health care workers who vaccinate at clinics. Reads as to depersonalise the staff.

Background
1: Both references to time are vague. “During the past century” & “In recent years” Would be very helpful to understand the context of the work for these to be replaced by the year these changes were implemented.

2: Authors report that “only” half of the mothers were employed. The word only could imply a value judgement on non-working women and should be omitted.

Methods
1: What is the age of the infants? Authors describe “1st, 2nd, or 3rd doses of hexavalent vaccine”. What age are these infants in Italy?

2: Authors say they interview during “all the hours the centres were open” but don’t specify these hours. As they also report on the percentage of working women the opening hours are important as may exclude working women from using this service.

3: Are the UOMI’s the only place of vaccination in this area? Where else may parents have their children immunised? If there are other places where immunisations take place what is the proportion of the population using UOMI’s?
The authors randomly selected the four centres but the population using the UOMI’s is not random and further explanation required.

4: Further explanation of Mandatory vaccination required. Under what law? When was the law passed? How is it enforced? What happens to parents who don’t immunise? What are the provisions for health care workers to work with this law and parents who do not immunise or choose to partially immunise?

5: The research question is not clear. Is the purpose to expose the law or investigate consent or the practices of the Health Care Workers?

Results

1: Authors report 1.5% knew which vaccinations were mandatory but this missing from tables.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Adequate

Statistical review: Not required.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.