Author's response to reviews

Title: Variations in influenza vaccination coverage among the high-risk population in Sweden in 2003/4 and 2004/5: a population survey

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BMC Public Health
Editorial Team

Dear Editors

Herewith we would like to resubmit our paper 'Variations in influenza vaccination coverage among the high-risk population in Sweden in 2003/4 and 2004/5' for publication in BMC Public Health.

We think we have answered all the concerns raised by Dr. Nowalk:
- We have added a section in the discussion concerning the practical organisation of the influenza vaccination campaign within GPs offices (e.g. standing orders for practice nurses, vaccination clinics, offering vaccination in the season at any visit, whatever the reason of the visit). The design of our study (we did not include GPs as a unit of observation) did not allow us to include this subject. In the discussion section, we now explicitly mention this limitation.
- We have elaborated the methods section and hope this will provide a more clear insight in how the interviews were organized.
- We have adjusted the tables according to the suggestions of Dr. Nowalk. For the comparison of our data with the actual population, we added an additional table, in order to give a clear overview.
- There was no change in vaccine policy etc. during both seasons. An increase in vaccination coverage however should be necessary to reach the WHO-standard in 2010. We think we demonstrated with our study that the current policy will not be sufficient to reach this target. Since there was no difference in policy and no change in vaccine coverage rates in both years, we decided that it was possible to combine the data of both seasons for researching the barriers non-vaccinated high risk persons experienced. Combining both seasons increased the number of observations, resulting in smaller confidence intervals. We have included this explanation in the text.
- We have added the relevant literature in the discussion section and compared our findings with the existing knowledge.

We would like to thank Dr Nowalk for her suggestions to improve our paper. We would also like to thank Dr. Jimenez Garcia for his support of our paper.

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Yours Sincerely, also on behalf of Dr. van Essen,

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