Reviewer’s report

Title: Prioritization strategies for pandemic influenza vaccine in 27 countries of the European Union and the Global Health Security Action Group: a review

Version: 1 Date: 18 July 2007

Reviewer: Chloe Sellwood

Reviewer’s report:

General

1) This is an interesting and helpful summary paper of the current thinking around pandemic influenza vaccine use in EU and GHSAG countries.

2) The paper is well written and there are only a few typographical or grammatical errors which could add clarity to the paper.

3) There are a couple of instances where the number of countries stated in the text disagrees with the number illustrated in the accompanying brackets (see details below). These should be checked and amended by the authors before publication.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

4) Pg 12, line 15: ‘Only six countries (BG, CA, DE, DK, IE, UK, US)...’ there are seven countries listed in the parentheses.

5) Pg 13, line 10: ‘...six further countries (25%) (BG, CA, EE, IE, IS)...’ there are only five countries listed in the parentheses.

6) Pg 13, lines 5 and 10: six countries = 19% in line 5, while six countries = 25% on line 10. Which is correct bearing in mind the point above? The five countries listed equate to 16% of the total 31; 25% of 31 is 7.75 countries... this needs to be checked and clarified prior to publication.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

7) These following comments could add clarity to the text, but are not essential.

8) Pg 3, line 1: change ‘Ten (32%) countries...’ to ‘Ten (32% of the 31 countries studied’.

9) Pg 4, line 22-23: change ‘...also other countries...’ to ‘...other countries also...’
10) Pg 6, line 6: change ‘…available on the public domain…’ to ‘…available in the public domain…’

11) Pg 7, line 7: change ‘…limiting economic losses.’ to ‘…limit economic losses.’

12) Pg 9, line 11: change ‘…group may per definition…’ to ‘…group may by definition…’

13) Pg 11, line 2: change ‘…“to save people considering future life”…’ to ‘…“to save future life years”…’

14) Pg 11, line 3-4: change ‘…At the time of writing, ranking was either under discussion (GR, LT, JP); information unavailable (CZ); or not done by 5 (19%) of 26 countries (AT, FR, PL, SE, SK) that had…’ to ‘…At the time of writing, ranking was either under discussion (GR, LT, JP); information unavailable (CZ); or not done (AT, FR, PL, SE, SK) by 9 (35%) of 26 countries that had…’

15) Pg 14, line 1: change ‘…Germany’s National Pandemic Plan not included as one…’ to ‘…Germany’s National Pandemic Plan, but not included as one…’

16) Pg 15, line 16: change ‘ Two-third (65%)…’ to ‘Two-thirds (65%)…’

17) Pg 15, line 18: change ‘…also leaving the flexibility…’ to ‘…also kept the flexibility…’

18) Pg 16, line 11: change ‘…that there is absence…’ to ‘…that there is an absence…’

19) Pg 16, line 17: change ‘…ongoing mathematical, we cannot…’ to ‘…ongoing mathematical modelling, we cannot…’

20) Pg 18, line 19-20: change ‘To identify HCW and ESP easily and rapidly registers may help in keeping track of them.’ to ‘Register may help to easily and rapidly identify and keep track of HCW and ESP’

21) Pg 21, Acknowledgements: need comma after ‘Dr. Sophie Maes’, ‘Germany’ needs to be underlined

22) Pg 23, Pandemic plans etc: change ‘Polen’ to ‘Poland’;

23) Pg 23, Pandemic plans etc: the revised UK Influenza Pandemic Contingencies Plan was recently available for consultation on the internet (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073185) – should the authors consider this might in their results? Should it be referenced?

24) Pg 24, References: number (9), final details of citation are missing

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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