Reviewer's report

Title: Lessons for Registry-Based Vaccine Effectiveness Studies from an Evaluation of an Immunization Registry: A Cross-sectional Study

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Reviewer: Kim J Rask

Reviewer's report:

The authors explore the feasibility of using regional immunization registries as a data source for vaccine effectiveness research. They identify many limitations, including discrepancies in administration as well as lack of information about vaccine lots for those vaccinations where administration was documented. This is disappointing given that the registry evaluated here is one of the older registry systems in the US with high community vaccination rates and likely includes best practice providers and early adoptors. The authors also point out the challenges of data entry for "old" vaccination records. Registries may not be useful for vaccine effectiveness research until there is more widespread adoption not only of electronic health records but also of electronic technologies such as bar code scanning that allow automated entry of vaccine lot numbers.

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions:

Clarify that the "future EMR transfer site" analysis compared the paper medical chart to the EMR currently available in the clinic. It remains to be seen whether the data transfer process could introduce additional discrepancies.

Discretionary Revisions: None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.