Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving immunisation rates in high risk children: A comparison of populations vaccinated in a public service and in a private hospital setting in the same area.

Version: 1 Date: 4 December 2007

Reviewer: Lawrence E Barker

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

While the authors have obviously studied English very hard and have a good command of the language, there are many statements that a native speaker simply would not make. This makes the paper hard to read and hard to understand. A review and editing by a native speaker (or someone of similar fluency) is essential.

The primary and secondary purposes of the manuscript do not mesh well. The manuscript reads as though it were two manuscripts jammed together. Either drop the secondary purpose or explain how the two complement and expand one another.

The authors need to say something about the co-operation rate of those interviewed for the paper. It seems hard to believe that everyone approached for an interview co-operated. If the percentage is low, the reader needs to know this.

Table 2 needs revision. The second column gives negative values for odds ratios, which is impossible. Was this perhaps the natural logarithm of the odds ratio? If so, there is no problem, but the log odds ratios must be labeled as such.

Minor essential revisions

The authors are inconsistent about using periods or commas to denote a decimal point. One convention should be followed consistently.

Discretionary revisions

Children receiving immunizations in hospitals and public health practices are only compared one factor at a time. The paper would be stronger if a multivariate comparison could be included as well.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.