Reviewer's report

Title: Comparing Estimates of Influenza-Associated Hospitalization and Death among Adults with Congestive Heart Failure Based on how Influenza Season is Defined

Version: 3 Date: 24 October 2007

Reviewer: Marie R Griffin

Reviewer's report:

General

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

sorry, i’m still having a hard time comparing the main outcome using the 4 methods
i’m not sure i understand how the attributable risk was calculated
what i would like to see is the number of events the authors attribute to influenza using the 4 different methods -- is this the attributable rate they calculated times the influenza person-time? if so, the number of events would vary more than 2-fold
Please clarify to tell the reader how many hospitalizations and deaths were attributable to flu in the population by each method.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'