Reviewer's report

Title: Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in the Americas: 1970s-2008

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2009

Reviewer: Pascale Wortley

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Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in the Americas: 1970’s-2008

General comments:
This manuscript summarizes results from a survey of all the countries in the Americas covering various aspects of their influenza vaccination activities. Differences between countries are interesting. Data on coverage are difficult to interpret and would require more background on how they are derived to be meaningful to the reader. It is hard to believe that coverage is in fact as high as the figures presented, but if they are, readers would be interested in knowing how such rates are attained. It would also be nice to have a better sense of how influenza vaccination takes place in these countries, for example what proportion occurs through the public versus the private sector? The information on the tropical countries is interesting.

Major compulsory revisions:
Provide more information on the sources of coverage data and if the data are not deemed reliable do not include in the table.
Provide more information on how influenza vaccination takes place (e.g.largely private sector, public, mixed?)

Minor essential revisions

Methods
Page 4, bottom: I didn’t find mention of status of impact evaluations in the results, if no findings are presented would not mention here.

Page 8, 2nd paragraph: what is PAHO’s RF?

Results:
Page 7, top: would move data on coverage presented in Discussion mid-page 9 to results.
Page 8, last paragraph results: in the countries that purchase vaccine through the PAHO RF is there also private purchase of vaccine? Is it known what proportion of vaccinated persons receive public vaccine?

Discussion
First sentence: ” …were recommending influenza vaccination in the public sector…” It is unclear what this means, are recommendations for public and
private sector different?

Page 10, beginning of 2nd paragraph: “Vaccination uptake needs to be improved”: the high coverage rates shown in Table 1 don't seem to support this conclusion.

**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