Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 24 May 2009

Reviewer: Rodrigo Jimenez Garcia

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting manuscript focused in a relevant Topic. It provides updated information on influenza vaccine programs and recommendations in the Americas.

Major revisions are needed before it can go on to publication.

General comment.

I have doubts that including data for USA and Canada is needed. These two countries have influenza surveillance systems that provide reliable and periodical information.

Perhaps the manuscript should focus only on the vaccine recommendations and vaccination programs more than coverages.

TITLE

The title seems not adequate; really the paper is mainly assessing vaccine recommendations and coverages???? from 2004 to 2008.

INTRODUCTION

Some information about the vaccine effectiveness is needed.

METHODS

The questionnaire sent to the countries could be provided

RESULTS

I have not received the titles for the figures. Figures could include percentages. “Chronic diseases” should be specified per countries if possible.

Information about if the vaccine is provided totally or partially free of charge for the different high risk groups and countries would be interesting.

DISCUSSION

Results shown in Figure 2, I understand coverages among the elderly, are hardly believable and must be commented or even eliminated if the validity is doubtful.

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'