Reviewer's report

Title: Systematic review: barriers to the use of reminder/recall interventions for immunizations

Version: 2  Date: 24 May 2012

Reviewer: Melissa Stockwell

Reviewer's report:

This an interesting study assessing the barriers to reminder-recalls, which as the authors stated, are widely recomended but often under-utilized. The manuscript is well-written and the authors describe well their thorough methodology for selecting articles. The main weakness is the small number of studies, but that is unavoidable. The authors also need to describe better their methodology for elicting themes emerging from the articles.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methodology
p6: More information should be included on how the themes were identified. Did the authors read the studies and come up with codes, were the articles then independently coded by two people? If so, what percent agreement was there, etc.

Minor Essential Revisions

Introduction
The authors should make clearer that they are primarily focusing on provider-perceived barriers to the use of reminder-recalls.

Methodology
p6 The authors should quantify the % agreement.

Results
p 9 The sentence discussing practices adhering to different immunization schedules should be in the discussion not the results, if it was not results from one of the studies identified.

Discussion
Throughout the discussion the authors use the word jurisdiction as relates to Canada, but the studies all were U.S. based. It might be better to talk more in terms of "regional" which could then apply to both Canada and U.S.

Discretionary
Discussion
The authors may want to discuss the utility of having a regional immunization registry send immunization back to the provider, since most reminder-recalls will occur at the provider level.

Tables
The supplementary table is more useful than Table 1, would consider switching them.

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.
Note: I am senior author on one of the studies analyzed in this manuscript.