Reviewer’s report

Title: The Quebec BCG Vaccination Registry (1956-1992): Assessing data quality and linkage with administrative health databases

Version: 2
Date: 21 November 2013
Reviewer: Kari Johansen

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is well written and the content is of interest to the scientific community. I only have comments in the Background section where some clarifications are needed to facilitate for the readers.

Minor essential revisions:

Background:

1. Are personal identification numbers available in Quebec/Canada? From reading the manuscript I indirectly understand not. Please mention that early on in the manuscript to facilitate for readers. Many of your future readers will come from countries where personal identification numbers are available and you can e.g. distinguish from this number what sex the individual has.

2. Please specify early on how the Registry was digitized since it is then more understandable that you need to do the subsequent significant validations.

3. Very little is said about national data protection laws and if they have had any limitations on your work specifically and in general on immunization registries. Please include.

4. Please clarify years when BCG was offered in organized programmes, from 1949? or from 1926?

5. Is BCG not offered at all any more? if it is please mention the policy after 1974.

6. Were AEFIs not noted in the registry? Please specify

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.