Reviewer's report

**Title:** A cost comparison of electronic and hybrid data collection systems in Ontario during pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccination campaigns

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 1 July 2011

**Reviewer:** gary roselle

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Overall, this is a well written paper. It addresses an important issue of cost for acquiring data on immunization during both pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccination seasonal campaigns. While the paper makes many assumptions that may or may not all be perfect, the author does comment extensively on issues related to these assumptions as they may affect outcome. Of particular note is the sensitivity analysis that shows mathematically what would be intuitive that the primary component of costing is staff time, a common finding in most healthcare delivery economic studies. One caveat that may be considered is that the monetary savings in staff time with an automated system is only achievable if staff are not being paid during those saved hours. For instance, if this care is provided in a public health clinic, and the staff is there all day, whether they are giving vaccine or not, then the savings may not be visible to administration. The fact that the nurses may be doing other things that are of value to healthcare is often not obvious to the administrative bureaucracy.

In conclusion, this paper does provided a useful service in comparing electronic with hybrid systems, an issue that will continue to be critical over the next several years. The weaknesses of the paper, such as multiple assumptions and the hope that saving staff time will actually save money, are for the most part addressed in the paper (the savings regarding staff time could be assumed, though not stated), but the latter could be stated more clearly.

**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.