Reviewer’s report

Title: Vaccination resource tracking: a systematic review of the data and literature

Version: 2 Date: 9 December 2013

Reviewer: Robert Hall

Reviewer’s report:

1. As a systematic review the search strategy should be made more explicit. The Supplementary Files do this well, but the text does not point readers to them. Minor Essential Revisions

2. “Studies in other languages were not considered.” I think what is meant is “Studies in languages other than English were not considered.” Minor Essential Revisions

3. There could be some comment on the utility of of data sources. The authors say that “data sources...were evaluated...according to the following criteria: costs, coverage, reliability and accessibility”. These data were drawn from open interviews, so comment about utility for managers in the field would be of some interest if the data exist. Discretionary Revisions

4. There is no real presentation of data on costs, coverage, reliability and accessibility of the various data systems discussed. I am familiar with the WHO-Unicef JRF. The evaluation presented in the paper is limited to its high coverage and doubts about validity (rather than reliability). Discretionary Revisions

5. Tracking systems are essentially a form of surveillance, and much of their value comes from their continuous ascertainment of data. One-off studies are not surveillance. The kinds and value of information from each type of analysis differ. Discretionary Revisions

6. The discussion asserts the importance of coverage, reliability, accessibility and costs in immunization resource tracking systems. There is no real analysis of how each system performs against these criteria. Technically, I would argue that “reliability” should be replaced by “validity”. Discretionary Revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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