Author's response to reviews

Title: Safety of licensed vaccines in HIV-infected persons: a systematic review protocol

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Version: 5 Date: 15 August 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Ref: MS1505622150129582-Response to Editorial comments

Thank you for re-reviewing our manuscript. The manuscript has continually benefited from the peer review process and we are very thankful.

We now trust the revised manuscript will receive a positive consideration to be published in your journal.

In this protocol, we propose to conduct a comprehensive and an up to date systematic review on the safety of vaccines administered to HIV-infected persons. We have narrowed our focus to safety following the comments we received from the previous reviewers.

Below, we have provided a point-by-point response to the editorial comments.

Best regards,

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Your revised manuscript has now been assessed by the Handling Editor and Editor in Chief and they have asked for the following to be completed before acceptance:

"In the "Assessment of risk of bias in included studies" section the authors mention GRADE. GRADE is not a risk of bias tool and I think it should be moved elsewhere in the document. I think it would make sense to have a separate section on assessing the evidence using the GRADE format."

Response to the editorial comment: We agree to the suggestion. In the revised manuscript, we now have a section on its own regarding the GRADE. The new section, on page 10 is highlighted in yellow in the file we have submitted named: 15Aug2014-MS1505622150129582-Marked-manu.docx.

“Grading the quality of evidence and strength of recommendations
We will use the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system to assess the quality of evidence (based on the clinical methods used to assess adverse events)."