Reviewer's report

Title: Why are the elderly and individuals with underlying chronic diseases not vaccinated against flu? A population-based study, Germany, 2014

Version: 1 Date: 26 April 2015

Reviewer: Vassiliki Papaevangelou

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study discussing influenza vaccination among elderly and high risk patients. It is well designed and presented.

Major compulsory revisions
1. My major problem is that authors do not clearly enough explain what they did with elderly high risk patients. In page 6, lines 24-25 until page 7, lines 1-2, they state that this group was included in the high risk group. However, when they performed univariate and multivariate analysis (page 7, lines 12-15) they had only two groups i.e. >60 yo and high risk 18-60yo. Therefore, one may conclude that in this analysis older high risk were considered just >60yo. Please explain.

2. I strongly disagree with the discussion paragraph, page 15, lines 15-25. I believe that physicians treated chronically ill patients more than any other doctors need to annually repeat and emphasize the need for influenza vaccination. This is actually in agreement with your finding that a proportion of interviewees did not know that annual vaccination is needed. Please rephrase.

Discretionary revisions

I think that the manuscript overall could be shortened and I would suggest some editing by Native English speaker. For example in page 14, line 12, the "for example" could be omitted.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.