

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** A semi-qualitative study of attitudes to vaccinating adolescents against human papillomavirus without parental consent.

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 10 December 2006

**Reviewer:** Jane Wardle

### Reviewer's report:

#### General

This is an interesting paper, using qualitative data to address the question of parental appraisals of adolescent autonomy in relation to (hypothetical) HPV vaccination.

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**Major Compulsory Revisions** (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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**Minor Essential Revisions** (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. It would be helpful to note whether there are legal acts to secure adolescent access to such services in the UK when the topic is first mentioned in the Introduction (page 4).
2. Please present overall questionnaire response rates in the results section.
3. In the Discussion (page 13), the authors claim that non-response is unlikely to have biased the results because the major social and ethnic groups were represented. I'm not sure that I follow that argument. Perhaps the authors should acknowledge that the 78% non-response rate, means that results from respondents cannot be assumed to represent all parent's views.

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**Discretionary Revisions** (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

### Declaration of competing interests:

Research funding from Sanofi Pasteur MSD to investigate public understanding of HPV.  
Support from Sanofi Pasteur MSD and GSK for attendance at conferences related to HPV.