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ePoster Viewing

Vaccine development

THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF VACCINATION AGAINST SEASONAL INFLUENZA IN ENGLAND

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Objectives This study sets out to examine two things: 1) whether the current vaccination programme for seasonal influenza in the United Kingdom (high risk individuals and those over the age of 65) is cost-effective compared to no vaccination; and 2) whether extending the current programme to low-risk individuals in different age groups is likely to be cost-effective when compared with UK norms for the willingness to pay for a QALY gained.

Methods The analysis makes use of the detailed reconstruction of the influenza epidemics over the last 15 years and an analysis of the burden of disease by risk and age group. The economic analysis follows NICE methodological guidance for the reference case. The model suggests that on average the current vaccination programme is highly likely to be cost-effective (compared with no vaccination), although it is possible that for a given year in isolation this is not the case, as some years all three strains are comparatively rare.

Results Extending vaccination to low-risk children (0.5-16 years) is likely to be cost-effective. However, extending the programme further to low risk adults is not likely to be cost-effective. These results are relatively robust to uncertainty over key parameter values and assumptions regarding the length of time that the programme is evaluated for as well as discount rates.

Conclusions The most cost-effective strategy against seasonal influenza is to vaccinate school children. The benefits of vaccination of children would accrue to other groups in addition to those vaccinated, particularly high risk adults.