infections, although the incidence of symptomatic infections in the older age class is high. The impact of the different assumptions used in the model was in general limited.

CONCLUSIONS: We conclude that over a wide range of assumptions, an additional booster dose can reduce the incidence of pertussis in the population.

PIN100
WHY DON’T HEALTH PRACTITIONERS PRESCRIBE RATIONALLY IN MALARIA? A QUALITATIVE STUDY FROM PAKISTAN
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OBJECTIVES: To investigate doctors’ perceptions towards factors underlying irrational prescribing practices in treatment of malaria in Pakistan. METHODS: A qualitative study with snowball sampling technique was used to identify nineteen doctors working in malaria clinics in Islamabad and Sindh. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the doctors until the point of saturation was obtained. The interviews, which were audio-taped and transcribed verbatim, were evaluated by thematic content analysis and by other authors’ analysis. RESULTS: Thematic content analysis identified three major themes and several subthemes: 1) Factors responsible for irrational prescribing practices in treatment of malaria; 2) Lack of implementation of standard malaria treatment guidelines in the country; and 3) Strategies to improve irrational prescribing practices in treatment of malaria. All the doctors acknowledged lack of implementation of standard guidelines in treatment of malaria while mixed responses were observed regarding factors influencing rational prescribing. Influence of pharmaceutical industry and unsupervised polytherapy were cited as major determinants for irrational prescribing practices in case of malaria. CONCLUSIONS: The findings suggest that the doctors in Pakistan are aware of irrational prescribing practices and its consequences in treatment of malaria but are facing significant barriers in terms of improving the current prescribing practices. There is an urgent need to design strategies such as implementation of standard malaria treatment guidelines, revision of health policies and up grading the education and training of health care providers in order to improve the current prescribing practices for antimalarials.

PIN101
NEW INSIGHTS ON THE SPREAD OF INFLUENZA THROUGH AGENT BASED EPIDEMIC MODELING
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OBJECTIVES: Every winter season an influenza epidemic occurs, although strength and duration may vary. In 2006-2007 in Austria presumably 5% of the whole population fell sick while 21% of individuals aged 15 and above were vaccinated. The goal was to build an agent based model to understand, model and simulate the progress of influenza epidemics. METHODS: The agent based model simulates single persons with an infection state (susceptible, infected with or without symptoms, resistant, vaccinated). Based on the results of a wide European study (POLYMOD, EC-Project FP7-223044, 2009) people have contacts in different places like households, schools or workplaces. Transmissions are possible upon contacts, then a person is infected for a while until he or she becomes resistant upon recovery. RESULTS: The outbreak of the epidemic starts when a few people are initially infected while the rest of the population is susceptible. After some time the epidemic becomes larger and number of resistant and a smaller number of susceptible persons. Since only 5% of the population fall sick the situations at outbreak and at the termination of the epidemic are similar and therefore it behaves very sensitive to parameter changes. CONCLUSIONS: Some parameter changes in the model can be interpreted as interventions. But usually the influenza does not react sensitive to interventions. For example, an increase of the vaccination rate by 5% prevents an outbreak of the epidemic in the model which is obviously not true. This insight has two consequences: First, the influenza does not just spread and stop by transmission and recovery of people. There must be one or more other impacts modulating outbreaks like predestined people to fall sick or the climate. Second, without knowledge of these impacts it is almost impossible to predict the effect of vaccination strategies exactly.

PIN102
NATIONAL COST SAVINGS FROM THE BRAZILIAN HIV/AIDS ANTIRETROVIRAL UNIVERSAL ACCESS PROGRAM: ANALYSIS VERSUS CANADA AND AUSTRALIA
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OBJECTIVES: In 1996, the Brazilian government implemented a universal access program for the purchase of anti-retroviral drugs to improve the treatment of HIV/AIDS. A recent study showed saved $1.78 billion USD savings from the program compared to pricing in the US. This study estimates the drug costs saved in 2010 by the program's implementation compared to pricing in Canada and Australia. METHODS: Nationwide drug distribution and drug prices for the Brazilian government's universal access program were obtained for 2010 from the Ministry of Health data. Drug prices for each drug were converted to daily dosage costs in US dollars. Comparable government drug prices were obtained for Ontario, Canada and Australia. The Brazilian, Canadian, and Australian unit drug costs were multiplied by the distribution rates in Brazil to calculate and compare the cost of the Brazilian 2010 drug distribution using the Brazilian and Canadian/Australian pricing rates. Any cost savings to the Brazilian government were also calculated. The savings calculation assumed that the Brazilian government has paid for all of the drugs distributed regardless of patient utilisation rates. Sensitivity analysis was conducted on the distribution rates, pricing, and utilisation rates. RESULTS: The Brazilian government saved $448.1 million USD in and $403.1 million USD 2010 versus Canada and Australia, respectively through its pricing program. The total cost of the drugs distributed was $1.94 billion dollars using the Brazilian pricing compared to $2.37 billion and $2.41 billion dollars using Canadian and Australian pricing rates, respectively. Sensitivity analysis found the results to be stable. CONCLUSIONS: Significant cost savings have been realized by the Brazilian government through its drug pricing program. These savings should be included as part of any analysis of the overall impact of the program.

PIN103
A COMPARISON OF INVESTMENTS FOR DIFFERENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS: RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS PROPHYLAXIS VERSUS HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE
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OBJECTIVES: Childhood prevention programs are important and imperative public health initiatives. However, prevention programs are often associated with considerable investments. This budget impact analysis was undertaken to project the Italian investment for a program to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) conjugating high-risk infants using palivizumab. The project was compared to an existing immunization program in the Lombardy region of Italy: Human Papillomavirus Vaccine [Types 6, 11, 16, 18] (HPV), considered standard of care. METHODS: Two budget impact models were developed to assess the impact of two prevention programs against RSV and HPV. The budget impact of RSV prophylaxis program was compared with a non-prophylaxis program, while the budget impact of HPV active prophylaxis was compared with a non-prophylaxis approach. Only direct costs based on disease prevalence, and program efficacy were included. The program for RSV prophylaxis includes triannual intramuscular vaccination costs, RSV-related resource consumption (visits, long term sequelae) and RSV hospitalization over one year; for HPV prevention program, one year prophylaxis was assessed against 5 years disease costs due to the low incidence of HPV related disease in 1 year. Eligible subjects were preterm and high-risk infants (as established by national guidelines) for RSV program and all 12-year-old girls cohort for HPV program. RESULTS: RSV prophylaxis expenditure was estimated at €11,577,776 in the prophylaxis program arm versus €5,206,534 in the ‘without prophylaxis’ program arm, while for HPV prevention program, vaccination program expenditure (including vaccination programs) was €13,086, 776 versus €11,577,776 in the control arm. The net budgetary impact was calculated at €6.4 million for RSV vs. €2.7 million for HPV vaccination. CONCLUSIONS: Considering the RSH perspective, the budget impact of palivizumab had lower program costs and higher disease cost offsets vs. HPV vaccination program, positioning its economic value within the context of cost-effective childhood prevention programs.

PIN104
PROS IN EVALUATING RESOURCE UTILISATION AND ABSENTEEISM IN PEOPLE RECEIVING INFLUENZA VACCINATION
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OBJECTIVES: To investigate whether patient reported outcomes could detect differences between H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccinations on resource utilisation and time off work over a 26 week follow up period. METHODS: In this evaluation, PROBE methodology consisting of a web-based system supplemented by telephone reporting was used to collect naturalistic data from people who had received an influenza vaccination during 2009-2010 season. People were recruited through media advertising and awareness campaigns in public places and work (West of Scotland). Data collection on day of immunisation, after 3 days, 8 days, 12 weeks and 26 weeks. Data included baseline demographics, any side effects following vaccination including the duration/ resource use and time off work. RESULTS: A total of 1103 vaccine recipients participated in the evaluation. Overall, 43% of respondents reported experiencing any side effect after vaccination (excluding pain/discomfort at site of injection) with more people reporting a side effect with H1N1 vaccination (45% versus 26% seasonal flu vaccination versus 42% receiving both vaccines p=0.001). However, there was no significant difference in health service utilisation between the groups – 5.2% H1N1, 2.3% Seasonal, 5.5% both vaccines p=0.468. 4 (0.6%) people in the H1N1 only group received hospital treatment, 1 (0.8%) in the seasonal only group and 2 (0.9%) receiving both vaccines. Time off work (absenteeism), in relation to flu like symptoms, also showed no significant difference between the groups – 1.7% H1N1, 1.9% Seasonal, 3.4% both vaccines p=0.486. CONCLUSIONS: This evaluation shows that the PROBE methodology quickly and simply captured patient reported outcome information on resource utilisation and absenteeism in a vaccinated population. People receiving the H1N1 vaccine alone were more likely to experience side effects than seasonal influenza vaccination alone but this did not lead to a significant increase in resource utilisation or time off work.

PIN105
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT IN THAILAND
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OBJECTIVES: This study evaluated the effect of government support on the amount of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services that can be provided to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in Thailand. METHODS: A cross-sectional survey of all 14,370 PLHIV at 39 facilities in 32 provinces was conducted in the first quarter of 2005. Results: The prevalence of government support among PLHIV was 52.6%. The impact of government support on the proportion of PLHIV who received a particular service was estimated using multivariable logistic regression. RESULTS: Government support was associated with a significantly higher proportion of PLHIV receiving HIV/AIDS treatment (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] 1.68), prevention (AOR 1.26), and care (AOR 1.84). CONCLUSIONS: Government support is crucial to increasing service utilisation among PLHIV in Thailand. Additional government support is needed to address the needs of PLHIV who do not currently receive support. Future research should explore mechanisms to increase support among PLHIV who are not currently receiving assistance.